FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

15 MAY 1987

Jordanian-Syrian Summit

An Amman radio report on King Husayn's "brief working visit" to Damascus noted that he and President Hafiz al-Asad discussed ways to clear the Arab atmosphere and promote Arab solidarity and bilateral ties, as well as efforts to convene an international Middle East peace conference. In a cable to Al-Asad broadcast by the radio after his return to Jordan, Husayn said their talks "reconfirmed the importance and usefulness of coordination and joint action by our two countries." For Syria's part, Damascus radio reported that the talks dealt with regional developments, all aspects of the Arab situation, and bilateral relations.

The king's accompanying delegation, as listed by Amman television, included the Jordanian prime minister, court minister, and armed forces commander in chief, all of whom also took part in Husayn's recent visits to Cairo and Baghdad. Syrian participants in the talks included Vice Presidents 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, according to Damascus television.

A commentary broadcast by Damascus radio before the king's arrival stressed the need for Arab solidarity in order to build a strategy of action capable of confronting the "U.S.-Zionist alliance." In Amman, the daily *Sawt al-Sha'b* accused Israel of using the "media clamor" over its internal differences as a "cover" for imminent military action in Lebanon. *Al-Dustur* contended that the results of the 13 May Israeli Inner Cabinet meeting "proved irrefutably that all Shim'on Peres was trying to market and sell to the whole world was completely baseless."

Israel

In remarks carried by Jerusalem radio prior to his departure for the United States, Foreign Minister Peres rejected "rumors concerning territorial concessions," stressing that he has made no commitment to give up any part of the occupied territories or to make any other kind of concession. Peres viewed the peace process as a matter of "life and death," and stressed his intention to continue promoting peace with full strength and and conviction.

In a separate development, Jerusalem radio noted that a Soviet delegation arrived in Israel to participate in the celebrations marking the 42nd anniversary of the victory over Nazi Germany.

Lebanon

Damascus Talks — The 12th round of talks between Lebanese presidential envoys and Syrian officials was "stymied" by the issue of power sharing and the two sides failed to make any breakthrough in the Lebanese Government crisis, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. Noting that power sharing was the main topic of the discussions in Damascus, the radio said that "no tangible progress" was made on this issue, although "new ideas" were discussed. In a related development in the Syrian capital, PSP leader Walid Junblatt discussed the cabinet crisis during talks with Syrian Vice President Khaddam, Radio Monte Carlo disclosed.

U.S. Hostage — The clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported that *Al-Nahar* has received a videocassette showing U.S. hostage Alann Steen reading a statement on behalf of his kidnappers, the Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine (IJLP). The statement accuses the U.S. Government of ignoring the fate of the hostages and repeats IJLP demands for the release of Arab prisoners in Israel.

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi warplanes hit another large maritime target near the Iranian coast 14 May, according to a military spokesman cited by INA. The agency also carried a military communique which noted Iraq's intention to retaliate for the killing or wounding of 59 Iraqi civilians in Iran's bombardment of Basra that day.

In another development, a military spokesman cited by INA denied Iranian claims about the security situation in northeastern Iraq, asserting that Iraqi forces are in full control of the border areas, including Halabjah. Iraq was responding to announcements by Tehran radio and IRNA that Iraqi Kurdish rebels assisted by Iranian forces recently gained control of Halabjah, Arbat, and other areas in the Iraqi border region southeast of Al-Sulaymaniyah. Tehran radio said the Iraqi Government responded to the Kurdish uprising by launching air and artillery attacks on Halabjah and Arbat.

Iran and the United States

Ayatollah Musavi-Ardebili warned the United States during Friday prayers that while Iranian fighters might entertain doubts about hitting Kuwaiti ships, "they will not entertain the slightest doubt in hitting American ships," Tehran radio reported. The ayatollah was responding to U.S. envoy Richard Murphy's warning that Iran should know that a U.S. ship is not the same as a Kuwaiti ship, the radio noted.

Arab-U.S. Relations

PLO on Congress Bills — Commenting on current draft U.S. legislation against the PLO, Baghdad Voice of PLO radio said this "hostile new onslaught" initiated by "Zionist Americans" confirms the United States is the "primary enemy" of the Palestinian people. The radio said the PLO will confront these "blatant hostile trends" in U.S. policy with all its power.

Saudi Denial on Contras — A Saudi diplomatic source cited by KUNA denied that King Fahd discussed financial assistance to

the Nicaraguan contras during his last visit to the United States, adding that persons involved in the sale of U.S. arms to Iran "callously" named Saudi Arabia in this connection in order to divert attention from violations committed by highranking U.S. officials.

Sudan

INF on Government — The Islamic National Front (INF) will not be represented in the new government but it is ready to participate with the government in formulating national policies, INF Secretary General Hasan 'Abdallah al-Turabi asserted in a statement cited by SUNA. He spoke of a "crisis" in the democratic system and called for changes in the bases on which the government is formed and ministers are chosen.

Downed Plane — The minister of state for defense affairs confirmed that a military transport aircraft was recently hit by SPLA fire near Waw, SUNA reported, but he said the damage was minor and the plane was able to land safely.

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'Sources' Reveal Tindemans' 'Secret' West Bank Plan

JN141054 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic
13 May 87 pp 1, 20

[Text] Paris — Informed West European sources have revealed something important to *Al-Qabas*. These sources said EC Chairman Leo Tindemans had discussed with Israeli officials a secret plan which calls for the establishment of an international council of trustees to take over the responsibility of administering the West Bank and Gaza Strip from the Israeli authorities. The sources said that Belgian Foreign Minister Leo Tindemans, whose country is chairman of the EC's current session, discussed this secret plan in detail with the Israeli military governor of the West Bank during a controversial meeting at the King David Hotel in occupied Jerusalem on Monday. This was the first time, since the occupation of the Arab territories in 1967, that a senior European official had met publicly with the Israeli military governor of the West Bank. Tindemans did not explain what took place with the Israeli general during the meeting but he said in a statement that the Israeli military governor knows what is going on in the West Bank and answered all my questions.

Informed West European sources told *Al-Qabas* that Tindemans spoke with the Israeli military governor, Shim'on Peres, Israeli deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Yitzhaq Rabin, Israeli defense minister, about a plan to establish an international council of trustees to supervise the West Bank and Gaza Strip. These European sources revealed the story of this secret plan to *Al-Qabas*. Here it is: Since assuming the chairmanship of the EC at the beginning of this year, Leo Tindemans has adopted a plan proposing the establishment of a UN-sponsored council of trustees to administer the West Bank and Gaza Strip after an Arab-Israeli agreement is reached on the Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories. The aim of the plan is to secure Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories as soon as possible and put an end to the Israeli settlement policy. According to Tindemans' plan, the international council of trustees would supervise the West Bank and Gaza Strip for a period of 3-5 years and after that the Palestinian side would take over responsibility in that area. Tindemans discussed this plan with a senior official in the PLO leadership during a meeting in January and he also discussed it with a number of Arab officials whom he met in the past few months, whether in Brussels or during his tour of the region.

Al-Qabas has learned that the PLO leadership told Tindemans that it welcomes his plan in principle, but prefers the duration of the international supervision to be limited to a few months instead of few years as Tindemans had proposed. Moreover, there was an Arab welcome for this plan in principle since its main aim is to put an end to the Israeli occupation as soon as possible. Tindemans was not satisfied to merely discuss this plan with Arab and Palestinian sides but also discussed it with U.S. officials, foremost of which are U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Middle Eastern affairs.

Al-Qabas has learned that the U.S. side did not welcome the plan but informed Tindemans of its willingness to accept it if the various parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict agree to it. Tindemans also discussed his plan with Soviet officials who expressed a positive response in principle from the premise that the USSR is willing to support any international formula that ends the Israeli occupation of the Arab territories. This plan was also discussed during meetings Tindemans held with EC foreign ministers. The European stand deems it preferrable not to issue an official European statement on this plan until it is crystallized and the various parties to the conflict reach an understanding on it.

During his visit to Israel, which began on Saturday and ended on Monday, Tindemans discussed his plan particularly with the Israeli military governor of the West Bank, Peres, and Rabin. According to the information received by the European sources, it is not clear if Tindemans had discussed this plan with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, or with any of the Palestinian figures he met in Jerusalem on Sunday. The informed european sources told *Al-Qabas* that the Israeli side did not show any enthusiasm for this plan to establish an international council of trustees. Peres explained to Tindemans that it is premature at any rate to adopt an official Israeli stand on the plan and that this issue can be discussed during peace talks with Jordan and West Bank Palestinians. the informed sources explained that this plan for an international council of trustees could represent an important factor in any new peace process aimed at discussing the future of the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and the Palestinians.

PLO Radio Condemns U.S. Congress Draft Bill

JN150830 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic
1833 GMT 14 May 87

[Station commentary: "The United States is the Primary and Principal Enemy"]

[Text] Brothers, sons of our heroic Palestinian people, and sons of our glorious Arab nation, the United States under Reagan is once again carrying out a hostile new onslaught against the Palestinian people and their cause, and against the PLO, this people's sole legitimate representative. The hostile new onslaught by the United States against the Palestinian people is taking place at a time that has many meanings and many serious dimensions. First, this hostile onslaught comes in the wake of the PLO's victory in convening the PNC session in Algiers. The PLO emerged from this session with its national unity further entrenched, its political concept defined, and its vitality renewed to carry out a new stage of struggle, chiefly marked by armed struggle, which the unitary PNC has considered the priority task. Second, this hostile U.S. onslaught comes at a time when there is a semi-international consensus on convening an international conference and on the PLO's participation in this conference as a principal party, on an equal footing with the others, and following the acknowledgment by all that there is no hope of furthering peace without the PLO's participation.

From this premise, the United States carries out its evil attempt to deliver its blow consisting of a draft bill submitted by Jack Kemp to the U.S. Congress to fine and censure [tahrim] all those who deal with or represent the PLO in the United States. Senate majority leader Robert Dole, New Jersey Senator Frank Lautenberg, and Ohio [as heard] Senator Grassley submitted a draft bill yesterday calling for the closure of PLO offices in the United States.

We never expected the U.S. forces that support Zionism to change their hostile course against us and their blind bias toward the Palestinian people, their cause, and the PLO. These forces that support Zionism were the ones that in the past aborted every initiative that could have made the United States deal with facts. These forces gave the Zionist enemy the green light and assisted it and participated with it in raiding the PLO headquarters in Tunis in 1985; fiercely opposed any recognition of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination; arranged the rabid campaign accusing the PLO of terrorism; and carried out the aggression against fraternal Libya and fraternal Iraq through the arms deal with Iran known as the Irangate scandal.

We must deduce from all this that the United States is the primary enemy of our people and nation and the principal enemy of our Palestinian cause and all the Arab nation's causes.

While we hope this draft bill against the PLO will be defeated, that this campaign against the PLO initiated by the Zionist Americans will abate, and that the U.S. people will act maturely to ward off any harm to their many interests in this region of the world, we would like to reaffirm we will not remain silent to the blows that will be dealt against us. And we will confront these blatant hostile trends in U.S. policy with all our forces. We call on the Arab nation to adopt the stand that is dictated by its interests and those of its future generations.

Al-Wazir on Israeli Attacks, 'Military Option'

JN141926 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1730 GMT 14 May 87

[Interview with Khalil al-Wazir, alias Abu Jihad, deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, by Hasan al-Kashif, in Baghdad; date not given — live or recorded]

[Text][Al-Kashif] Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], in the past weeks there have been repeated Israeli air and naval attacks on the Sidon and Tyre refugee camps. Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said a few days ago that such strikes will not stop. Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has predicted a large Israeli attack on the Palestinians in southern Lebanon this summer. As you see it, where is the situation in southern Lebanon heading?

[Al-Wazir] With regard to the Israelis, the situation is heading toward a further escalation of the situation in southern Lebanon, where it will take the form of continued air and naval attacks, and special operations are expected. It will also take the form of launching several wider operations. All possibilities are relevant, particularly since Rabin's policy converges with Shamir's line: Intensifying the iron fist policy within the occupied territory and continuing the war against the Palestinian revolution everywhere and at all times. In the political conflict within Israeli society, Rabin and Shamir are trying to drown the voice of the dialogue on the international conference with the sounds of bombs, shells, and attacks. That is a fact we must not forget.

[Al-Kashif] The second hot arena is the occupied territory. What is new is the settlers role in the clashes with the Palestinians there. How do you view such developments, particularly since you view the occupied territory as your main arena of struggle.

[Al-Wazir] As part of the campaign against our Palestinian people, the victims of aggression, there is increased suppression and persecution of our people inside the occupied territory. With the beginning of the 40th year since the catastrophe that befell our people and their dispersal, we say we must not be deceived by the maneuvers of Shamir and Peres on the international conference. We in the Arab world must go back to discussing something we have forgotten and lost, something that has been ignored by our Arab nation, specifically the military option. Where is it now? No one in the Arab world hears it. All of the talk is about political maneuvers and political solutions. When can we return to talk about the military option? That is a question that will be constantly raised with the beginning of the 40th year, at a time when we must remember that our enemy is preparing himself and is trying to choose the conditions, time, and objective, which he has always set for himself, namely, to occupy more Arab territory.

[Al-Kashif] Thank you, brother Abu Jihad.

DFLP's Hawatimah Comments on Dialogue Committee

JN141528 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1200 GMT 14 May 87

[Text] In a statement to the magazine *Al-Hurriyah*, DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah emphasized that efforts and dialogue to complete Palestinian unity must continue with the participation of all Palestinian resistance factions without exception. He said a committee including Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, Abu 'Al. Mustafa [Mustafa al-Zibri], and Sulayman Najjab has been formed to continue the dialogue with the factions that did not take part in the recent PNC session.

Hawatimah asserted there are no serious obstacles preventing the dialogue's success and there will be tangible improvement in Syrian-PLO relations in the next few weeks.

KUWAIT

Prime Minister Comments on Gulf War, Arab Summit

LD141701 Kuwait KUNA in English 1121 GMT 14 May 87

[Text] London, May 14 (KUNA) — H.H. the Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Kuwait Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah said that the Gulf war has surpassed all logical limits and Islamic, humanitarian and national considerations.

H.H. added, in an interview to be published here Friday by *Al-Hawadith* Arabic-Language magazine, that Kuwait hopes for an Iranian response to all peace calls to put an end to this bloodshed.

As for the Palestinian cause, the crown prince said that world powers have started to realise that a settlement in the Middle East should be based on a solution for the Palestinian problem which stipulates regaining all of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights including the right to establish an independent state.

On the long-awaited Arab summit, H.H. said that the Arab and international situation requires, now more than any other time, an Arab meeting at a summit level, "There is nothing standing in the way of holding such a meeting," he added.

Shaykh Sa'd stated that Egypt has a leading role in contributing to Arab efforts in service of national issues and there is no doubt that its presence at any Arab meeting will strengthen joint efforts and reinforce Arab solidarity which should receive adequate attention at this decisive stage.

Speaking on the Lebanese crisis, Shaykh Sa'd said that all Arab countries, and Kuwait in particular, will save no efforts to put an end for the Lebanese sufferings and restore peace and security to Lebanese territories. He warned that any action in this direction will not be successful unless it meets with Lebanese's desire to end this bloodshed.

On the extent of GCC success during its six years of formation, H.H. said that the council was able to realise many great goals and has become an established reality in international gatherings.

He said that "Kuwait is keen to establish its relations based on friendship, cooperation and mutual respect with all countries in the framework of our national, Arab and Islamic interests." That goes for the Soviet Union, the U.S. and Western Europe, the crown prince underlined.

Responding to a question on Kuwait's military capability in case of war, H.H. said, "We do not call for war or trouble, but we work for the best for humanity."

On the internal front, H.H. affirmed that the Kuwaiti security is firm. "The sabotage that took place recently was conducted by a small group," he noted.

On a possible Cabinet re-shuffle and a new Kuwaiti Government, H.H. said that the current government performs its duties as it should and there is no reason for a change at the present time.

Paper Hopes Murphy 'Wiser' Than Previous Sojourns

JN131500 Kuwait KUWAIT TIMES in English 12 May 87 p 4

[Editorial: "It's Murphy Again"]

[Text] Once again the U.S. mendicant friar for the Middle East — Richard Murphy — is on his round. He has been here before. It is to be hoped that he is wiser than he was on his previous sojourns in these parts. Much blood has flowed since. It is now our feeling, settling into belief that had the United States the wisdom and the will we could easily have been spared this loss and this continuing agony. News reports have it that President Reagan has recently told an Arab League delegation that he and his government "strongly supported a negotiated agreement." This must be a very recent change as far as he and the United States Government under him may be concerned. The secret commerce that lies behind the Iran-Contra story would seem to set very uneasily with pious professions. However, if Washington has seen the light now, the event renders some optimism in order. Although one must wait and look for some concrete evidence to support hope for a turn for the better. Meanwhile, let us try to be clear about a point or two. The problems confronting the Middle East can be many. Two stand out: the Palestine question and the Iran-Iraq war. Arab leaders who tell the United States that working for the resolution of both of these problems is its responsibility are being polite, very polite. The unquestionable truth of the matter is that the responsibility for creating these problems in the first place also lies with it. Also the responsibility for the fact that these problems have dragged on for so long and getting more and more complex in the process. This responsibility is comprehensively and exclusively that of the United States. Facts so plain and simple like these need no elaboration and we need not offer any. The proper thing is to proceed to the next point.

The Iran-Iraq war first. Arguably, this conflict could have been brought to some kind of an end if, as we have already stated, the Reagan administration had not tried to be short-sighted, selfish and scheming. That he has shot himself also in the foot is no comfort to us. In fact, it is irrelevant as far as we are concerned. What we have felt all along — and the whole world now fully agrees with — is that one party to the conflict has consented to cooperate with all peace-making efforts made so far. And the other has not. Peace efforts have been made at all conceivable levels and in the name of everything sacred and holy. In a word, one party stands on one side and the rest of the world on the other. How long is the world going to be a passive spectator of this incredible scene? How long is it reasonable to countenance this kind of disregard of world opinion, sentiment and resolution? Surely, the United States is not all that impotent. Or the other superpower. If there is any such thing as principles and scruples in the dictionary of the superpowers and if they have the capability of respecting these considerations, they should sit together and let it be known that they mean to see this war ended. They most certainly have the means to accomplish this. How is too simple to need spelling out. We know it that they know the way to end wars quite as they know how to get some started.

On the Palestine issue, too, the record of the United States falls far short of being reputable. It has created a cancer in the Middle East and has done so deliberately — as the central pillar of its policy, as a foil to the Arabs, to the entire Islamic world. Both major political parties in the United States are totally sold on this. Single-minded pursuit of this policy has had its side effects. Intimidating, dividing and demoralising the Arabs has been the basic instrument for the implementation of this line. The British, who now try to distance themselves from the chaos that U.S. adoration of Israel has generated in the Middle East, started this tragedy. Not by mistake but by design. The two have never been such close accomplices in the Middle East as now with Reagan in Washington and Mrs Thatcher in London.

For those who remember their lessons of history, including its most recent episodes would find it hard not to be curious. The U.S. has come round to the ideas of an international conference on Palestine. So we are invited to believe. May we not know what impelled the U.S. to such a change? And what is the real extent of this conversion? Is it a conversion of conviction or convenience? We have been led up the garden path so very often that not to be incredulous would be hypocritical. The first step, if the U.S. really intends to regain trust, is to be open, straight, remorseful and repentant. Once bitten, twice shy. Goodness knows how often and how viciously we have been bitten

Daily Answers Criticism of Tanker Registration

LD141244 Kuwait KUNA in English 0905 GMT 14 May 87

[Text] Kuwait, May 14 (KUNA) — Daily *Al-Anba'* refused, in its editorial Thursday, lessons in nationalism or in Arabism directed at Kuwait from others.

The paper defended Kuwait's decision to register some of its tankers with a super power, including the Soviet Union, wondering at the same time about the reasons which forced Kuwait to "commit this harsh behavior."

The paper, talking to what it called the arrogants who try to teach Kuwait lessons in nationalism, added that "Kuwait knows well why its calls for peace in the Arab Gulf have gone up in smoke after it warned thousands of times that the continuation of the Gulf war will attract foreign fleets and interventions by the super powers."

Al-Anba' warned from [as received] the many secret deals which are and were held to keep the war going on between Iraq and Iran which will transform the Gulf into an easy prey for predators.

It affirmed, in conclusion, that Kuwait will not bow to bargaining even if the last drop of blood is shed for the sake of Arab destiny.

IRNA: Prisoners' Hunger Strike Enters 3d Week

LD142008 Tehran IRNA in English 1517 GMT 14 May 87

[Text] Tehran, May 14, IRNA — As the hunger strike of Muslim detainees in Kuwaiti prisons entered the third week, authorities rounded-up fresh batches of Muslims, on alleged charges of disturbing the security of the sheikhdom, said reports reaching here Thursday.

Last week a group of 19 Shi'ite and Sunni Muslims were arrested, accused of igniting the blazes which raged in the sheikhdom during the last two weeks.

Meanwhile 8 other Kuwaiti Muslims were taken into custody in connection with a recent anti-government statement, issued by the local Muslims, denouncing the authorities reign of terror. By weekend 3 more were arrested in the same connection.

In another development 12 Muslims who were recently prosecuted by a kangaroo court have again been subjected to torture after the end of the trial. The condition of the 12 who are staging a hunger-strike already in its third week has been described as miserable.

Prison authorities do not even permit the Muslim detainees to perform ablution for prayers and they are forced to dryclean themselves.

Briefs

Bonds Agreement With Finland — Kuwait, May 13 (KUNA) — Kuwait and Finland signed today an agreement over public issue of Kuwaiti dinar 20 million bonds with an interest rate amounting to 7.5 percent. The issue agreement was signed by board chairman of the National Bank of Kuwait Muhammad al-Kharafi and on the Finnish part was endorsed by first adviser at the Ministry of Finance in Finland Kari Nars. Karafi said in a statement that the agreement is aimed at backing Kuwaiti financial market and shows the confidence of the Government of Finland in the strong position and stability of the Kuwaiti dinar. Nars told KUNA that the issue will be used in financing government investment projects in industries owned by the private sector. Noting this is the second loan obtained from Kuwait by Finland, Nars expressed trust in Kuwaiti financial markets. Finnish ambassador here Esko Kunamo said the agreement reflects the friendly relations between Kuwait and his country, indicating that Finnish products and consultative companies are available in Kuwait. [Text] *[Kuwait KUNA in English 1245 GMT 13 May 87 LD]*

PDRY

CEMA Cooperation Protocol Signed After Meeting

EA142027 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 14 May 87

[Text] The work of the first session of the joint committee between Democratic Yemen and the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, CEMA, was concluded at noon today in the Palestine International Conference Hall. At the final sitting, a protocol of the first session of the joint committee was signed. Brother Salih Abu Bakr ibn Husaynun, member of the Central Committee, deputy prime minister and minister of energy and minerals, and leader of the Yemeni side in the joint committee, signed the protocol on behalf of the PDRY. The leaders of

delegations of the countries of the council signed on behalf of CEMA.

The session's protocol comprises a number of projects scheduled to be implemented with the assistance of the CEMA countries. Among the most important of them is the building of 1,000 housing units in Aden; the construction of quays; the electrification of Aden refinery; construction of a cement project with a capacity of 350,000 tons a year; a 250-kilowatt shortwave radio broadcasting station; the building of grain silos with a capacity of 60,000 tons; and the building of a number of warehouses.

A news communique, issued at the end of the session, stated that the joint committee approved its bylaw that regulates its activities, and that the committee's work plan between its first and second meetings was ratified. The second meeting is scheduled to be held in Moscow in September of next year.

Brother ibn Husaynun delivered a speech at the end of the session in which he expressed the pleasure of our party and of the government of the revolution in our country at the results achieved by the session, affirming that Democratic Yemen's relations with the CEMA member countries are strong and strategic. He expressed his confidence in the development of these relations to serve the interest of our peoples and the orientations of our parties.

Meanwhile, the delegations participating in the meetings of the joint committee this morning paid study visits to the thermal power station project in Al-Hiswah and the fishing harbor project. During the tour, they acquainted themselves with the progress of work at the two projects and the technical services they offer in training Yemeni cadres by the Soviet comrades. They noted the importance of these two projects in reinforcing our country's productive material base.

The participating delegations also visited the Political Bureau's office where they were briefed on the details of the 13th January bloody conspiracy and the results the conspiracy left behind at all the political, economic, and social levels.

Briefs

Council Session on Economy — The Supreme Peoples Council continued its third session yesterday evening. The remaining items on the agenda, including a report on the implementation of the Second 5-Year Plan for economic and social development (1981-85), were discussed. The report says the rate of implementation of the Second 5-Year Plan was, in general, satisfactory. It points out that the investment target set in the plan was 747.8 million dinars, whereas actual implementation was 582.9 million dinars. The percentage plan implementation was 76.2 percent. [Text] *[Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 12 May 87 EA]*

SAUDI ARABIA

'Source' Denies Fahd-Reagan Talks on Contras

LD141230 Kuwait KUNA in English 1117 GMT 14 May 87

[Text] Washington, May 14 (KUNA) — A Saudi diplomatic source said today the issue of financial assistance to the Nicaragua contras was not discussed by Saudi Arabia's King Fahd in the course of his latest visit to the United States.

The source told KUNA King Fahd did not raise the subject with President Ronald Reagan when the former visited Washington in February 1985. The source noted that Saudi Arabia has clarified its stance in connection with this matter and stressed there was nothing new to add.

A number of persons involved in the American arms sales to Iran and providing the contras with assistance from the incurred profits, have callously brought up the name of Saudi Arabia in an attempt, which the Saudi source maintains, aimed at diverting attention to cover up for the violations committed by highranking American officials.

The Reagan administration, in defiance to Congress, diverted financial assistance to the contras of Nicaragua.

The Saudi Government has more than once denied any connection with the arms deal in question, while the Saudi Embassy in Washington had also denied charges that Saudi Arabia had aided any groups related to Nicargua, the source pointed out.

Foreign Ministry Explains Expulsion of Iranians
NC141217 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1140 GMT 14 May 87

[Text] Cairo, 14 May (MENA) — The Egyptian Foreign Ministry declared today that the decision to close the Iranian Interests Section in Cairo came in light of the behavior of the mission's members — behavior inconsistent with diplomatic norms and considered a departure from the Vienna agreement regulating the activity and work of diplomatic missions, as well as the privileges and immunities accorded them.

The Foreign Ministry informed the Swiss Embassy in Cairo, which handles Iranian interests in Egypt, of this decision on Monday, 11 May, and gave the employees of the Iranian mission 7 days to settle their personal affairs and leave the country.

In view of the fact that France looks after Egyptian interests in Tehran, the Foreign Ministry also contacted the French Embassy in Cairo to ensure that the Egyptian administrative attache, the sole employee of the Egyptian interests mission in Tehran, returns to Cairo within the same period.

AL-WAFD: Mubarak, King Husayn, 'Arafat To Meet
PM141517 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 10 May 87 p 1

['Abd al-Nabi 'Abd al-Sattar report: "Contacts To Hold Tripartite Summit Among Mubarak, Husayn, and 'Arafat"]

[Text] 'Abd al-Nabi 'Abd al-Sattar writes:

Al-Wafd has learned from political sources that Egypt's political leaders recently agreed to a proposal by King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the Saudi monarch, and Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to hold a tripartite summit in Cairo. The meeting will bring together President Husni Mubarak, Jordan's King Husayn, and PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat. The tripartite summit is intended to resolve the differences that have arisen. The date of the summit is expected to be fixed immediately after the conclusion of the meetings of the PLO Executive Committee, due to be held in Tunis within the next week. The political leaders previously postponed any reconsideration of their decision to close down all PLO offices in Cairo and Alexandria until after the tripartite summit. In addition, King Husayn has delayed his trip to Cairo, scheduled for last week, following the [PNC's] decision to abrogate the Jordanian-Palestinian accord. *Al-Wafd* has learned that five Arab states have served as mediators in the last few days to contain the recent crisis between the PLO and Egypt.

AL-WAFD on Murphy Mideast Visit, Soviet Moves
PM141403 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 8 May 87 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "U.S. Maneuver in Middle East To Stop Soviet March"]

[Text] *Al-Wafd* has learned that Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs, will leave Washington in the next few days for a visit to the Middle East. He will hold his first meeting with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn since the revelation of the scandal surrounding the American arms deal with Iran.

Al-Wafd has also learned that during this meeting the U.S. assistant secretary of state will focus on the secret summit held on 26 and 27 April between Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. That encounter lasted 5 hours and was attended by a senior Saudi official. It took place after Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad returned from the Soviet Union, which had agreed to reschedule Syrian debts totaling approximately $15 billion, the bulk of which covers Soviet military equipment on which Syria depends. *Al-Wafd* has learned that Murphy's trip to the Gulf states will deal with the security situation there. A U.S. defense agreement with a Gulf state has also been examined; it will center on U.S. Navy protection for Kuwaiti oil tankers. The accord treats the operation of Kuwaiti oil tankers as well as their defense from possible Iranian attacks.

Al-Wafd has also discovered that the United States is now deeply concerned about the Soviet march toward the Gulf, symbolized by the recent trip there by Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Petrovskiy, and Soviet arrangements for the summit between Al-Asad and Saddam Husayn. Moscow had received Hafiz al-Asad as well as Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz in a serious attempt to mend the rift between Syria and Iraq [through a meeting] in Jordan. In addition, *Al-Wafd* has learned that the Soviet Union supports the role which King Fahd, the custodian of the two holy mosques, played recently between the Moroccan monarch, King Hassan, and Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid.

'Abd al-Majid Confers With UN Forces' Callaghan
NC142021 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 14 May 87

[Text] Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met today with General William Callaghan, chief coordinator of the UN Peacekeeping Forces in the Middle East. They reviewed the UN forces' activities and functions in the Middle East, as well as their cooperation with Egypt to preserve peace and stability in the region.

President Chairs Council of Ministers Meeting

JN121510 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1135 GMT 12 May 87

[Text] Baghdad, 12 May (INA) — His Excellency President Saddam Husayn has presided over a meeting of the Council of Ministers that lasted more than 4 hours. During the session, the participants discussed the issues on the council's agenda, and approved the appropriate decisions and measures.

The meeting was attended by 'Izzat Ibrahim, deputy chairman of the RCC; Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; Taha Muhyi al-Din Ma'ruf, RCC member and vice president; RCC members; members of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command; the head of the president's office; cabinet ministers; and a number of state officials.

Aircraft Raid Refineries, 'Maritime Target'

JN131204 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1129 GMT 13 May 87

[Communique No 2,673 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 13 May 1987]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The planes of our Air Force carried out the following heroic missions today:

1. At 1030 today, a number of our aircraft headed for the refineries of Esfahan and delivered their destructive missiles, seriously damaging those installations.

2. At 1040 today, some of our other planes flew off to the northernmost reaches of Iran, where they penetrated the enemy's defenses and dealt a devastating blow to the Tabriz oil refineries, setting their targets ablaze.

3. At the same time, a number of our aircraft inflicted a destructive blow on a Hawk surface-to-air missile battery in the Tabriz area, destroying their targets.

4. At 1240 today, the valiant hawaks of our Air Force dealt an accurate, effective blow to a large maritime target off the Iranian coast.

5. At 1012 today, waves of our aircraft delivered a fatal blow to enemy scoundrels in their camp near Shushtar while burning a number of enemy tents and other equipment.

6. At 1020 today, our planes struck in waves, pounding targets in the Galdian camp.

7. Again at 1020, some of our other planes dealt destructive blows to enemy concentrations, installations, equipment, weapons depots, and ammunition dumps in the Pasveh camp.

After carrying out all these missions, all our aircraft returned safely to base in God's care and protection. Congratulations to our heroic Air Force, commanders, hawks, officers, and other ranks, on these magnificent achievements. Congratulations to you o glorious Iraqis on the fruits of your heroic struggle for the sake of God and the homeland.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 13 May 1987

2d 'Maritime Target' Attacked

JN131830 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1813 GMT 13 May 87

[Military spokesman's statement dated 13 May 1987]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. In continuation of the victories scored by the planes of our heroic Air Force today, and to inflict additional painful blows destroying the oil supplies of our country's Zionist Khomeyniite enemies, our valiant aircraft launched a daring raid on another very large maritime target near the Iranian coast at 1939 today. They directed an accurate, effective blow at it before returning safely to base in God's care and protection.

Panamanian Vessel Struck

JN141146 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1125 GMT 14 May 87

[Text] London, 14 May (INA) — The British insurance company Lloyd's announced here a short while ago that Iraqi aircraft hit a Panamian oil tanker off the Iranian coast yesterday. Lloyd's said that Iraqi fighters hit the 96,747-ton tanker *Stilicon*, which was built in 1968 and is owned by the London-based Troodos shipping company. It added that it has received no information on the extent of the damage to the Panamian vessels from its sources in the Arab Gulf.

An Iraqi Armed Forces General Command communiue issued yesterday said that Iraqi Air force planes delivered an accurate and effective blow to a large maritime target near the Iranian coast at 1240 yesterday.

Communique No 2,674 Views 12-13 May Operations

JN131724 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 May 87

[Communique No 2,674 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 13 May 1987]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. In order for the Iraqi flag to remain high and lofty, the faithful, the patient soldiers of truth continue their heroic jihad against the aggressor Zionist Khomeyniites, inflicting new losses on them each day. The results of combat activities for yesterday and today are as follows:

1. The number of combat missions carried out by our gigantic Air Force aircraft on enemy positions and vital targets deep inside enemy territory mentioned in our Communique No 2,673 issued this afternoon totaled 70. Afterward, our planes returned safely to base in God's care and protection.

2. A force from our units in the I Army Corps northern sector clashed with a group of enemy personnel. With courage and determination it managed to inflict 12 killed on the rogues and a number of others wounded. The remainder of the enemy group was forced to flee.

Elswhere in the same sector, two enemy personnel were killed and a PKC machinegun and a Kalashnikov rifle were seized.

3. One of our units in the V Army Corps northern sector spotted and pounded an enemy force estimated to be an infantry platoon, which tried to approach our forward positions. Thirteen personnel were killed and 2 others were injured while the remainder fled.

4. Units of our brave artillery in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan dealt effective blows to a number of selected enemy targets before them, inflicting further losses on the aggressors in men, vehicles, and equipment.

5. An enemy soldier was killed and a shovel [preceding word in English] and two infantry positions were destroyed in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

6. A tower and three positions of various types were destroyed and four ammuntion dumps were blown up in the VII Army Corps sector.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 13 May 1987

Iranian Claim on Maysan Denied

JN131339 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1250 GMT 13 May 87

[Text] Baghdad, 13 May (INA) — An Iraqi military source has denied Iranian claims that a battle is going on today in the Fakkeh area in the sector east of Maysan. In a statement to INA, the source described the story spread by Iran's propaganda machine as fabricated in part and parcel. He noted that, as always, the Iranian rulers are trying to cover up the devastating blows dealt by the Iraqi Air Force today and to divert attention from the losses they suffered as a result of these attacks.

The source confirmed that the Iraqi forces are ready to confront any foolish Iranian action in the sector east of Maysan or anywhere else. He said: If the Khomeynniites want to try their bad luck, we will be lying in wait for them.

Fighter Aircraft Attack 'Large Maritime Target'

JN141852 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1844 GMT 14 May 87

[Text] Baghdad, 14 May (INA) — Iraqi fighter planes have dealt an accurate and effective blow to a large maritime target near the Iranian coast. In a statement to INA a short while ago, an Iraqi military spokesman said Iraqi aircraft carried out an accurate and effective strike on a large maritime target near the shores of Iran at 2030 today. The spokesman added that the Iraqi planes returned safely to base after administering a blow that prevents the Iranian regime from receiving the oil supplies used to prolong the war.

Communique No 2,675 Details 13-14 May Combat

JN141719 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 May 87

[Communique No 2,675 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 14 May 1987]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant Armed Forces have inflicted new losses on the ranks of the Khomeyniite aggressors through the following combat operations last night and today:

1. The planes of our gigantic Air Force carried out 55 combat sorties against enemy units, inflicting heavy losses in men, equipment, weapons, and hardware before returning safely to base, praise be to God.

2. The crews of our daring helicopter gunships went on brave missions in the operational areas. In 50 combat sorties, our helicopter gunships killed a number of scoundrels and destroyed a number of weapons emplacements and infantry positions. Our aircraft then returned safely to base in God's care.

3. Our valiant units in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah directed concentrated artillery, mortar, and tank fire at the enemy positions opposite them, inflicting losses in men and equipment. They also caused the following confirmed losses: the killing of 21 scoundrels and the wounding of several others; the demolition of 5 ammunition dumps; the burning of 2 shovels [preceding word in English]; the halting of enemy engineering activity; and the destruction of an observation post, several infantry positions, and a steel tower.

4. Through their heroic operations, our brave units in the I Army Corps northern sector managed to destroy 22 shelters, killing or wounding those inside, and to set 4 ammunition dumps ablaze.

5. In the II Army Corps central sector a 106-mm gun, a machinegun emplacement, and three infantry positions were destroyed, while one vehicle was set alight.

6. One shovel, three ammunition dumps, and a crane were destroyed in the VII Army Corps sector.

7. The steadfast city of Basra was the target for the enemy's long-range artillery today. The enemy shelling resulted in the martyrdom of 3 civilians and the wounding of 44 others. A number of homes and civilian property were also damaged. Mercy and forgiveness for our martyrs and a swift recovery for our wounded, God willing. Such hideous crimes will certainly not pass without severe punishment at the proper time.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 14 May 1987

Spokesman Denies Iranian Claims on Border Areas

JN141611 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1555 GMT 14 May 87

[Text] Baghdad, 14 May (INA) — An Iraqi military spokesman has denied Iranian claims on the security situation in the border

areas of northeastern Iraq. In a statement to INA a short while ago, the Iraqi spokesman said Iran's claims are lies designed to divert attention from the disasters the Iranian peoples are exposed to as a result of the Iranian Government's insistence on the war.

The spokesman declared that the Iraqi forces are in full control of the border areas and that all border villages and cities are secure. This includes Halabjah, which the Iranians alleged was the center of fighting.

UN Security Council Informed of Iranian Shelling

JN131903 Baghdad INA in English 1606 GMT 13 May 87

[Text] United Nations, May 13, INA — Iraq notified the United Nations Security Council today that the Iranian regime has continued to shell civilian areas in Iraq.

In a letter submitted to U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar and distributed to the council, Iraqi Ambassador to the U.N. 'Ismat Kittani details Iranian long-range artillery shellings on the city of Basra on May 5 and 6, which resulted in damage to houses belonging to civilian citizens.

King Husayn Returns From Brief Visit to Damascus

JN150639 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
0500 GMT 15 May 87

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn and the members of his delegation returned home at dawn today after a brief working visit of several hours to the Syrian Arab Republic. His stay included talks with His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad. On hand to welcome his majesty were His Highness Crown Prince Hasan and a number of senior officials. His majesty left Damascus at dawn. He was seen off at Damascus Airport by His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, Vice Presidents Khaddam and Mashariqa, Prime Minister 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm, Chief of Staff Hikmat al-Shihabi, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', and a number of other ministers.

While in Syria, His Majesty King Husayn held two private meetings with His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad followed by an expanded session attended by officials from both sides. They examined ways to clear the air in the Arab world and foster Arab solidarity and bilateral ties. Efforts to convene an international conference to achieve a just and permanent settlement in the Middle East were studied as well. [passage omitted]

Cables Thanks to Al-Asad

JN150628 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
0400 GMT 15 May 87

["Text" of cable from King Husayn to Syrian President al-Asad upon the former's return to Amman on 15 May]

[Text] Your excellency dear brother President Hafiz al-Asad of the Syrian Arab Republic, may God protect you: As I leave Damascus, it gives me pleasure to express my deepest thanks and appreciation for the hospitality accorded us by your excellency and the dear brothers of sisterly Syria.

Our fraternal meeting, as well as the talks we held, confirmed once more the importance and utility of coordination and joint action by our two countries. Such measures stem from clear-sightedness and a pan-Arab commitment to deal with the various challenges facing our Arab homeland. Our visit consolidated our joint approach to the closing of ranks and unification of stands so as to satisfy our nation's aspirations, advance its causes, and safeguard its future generations.

I repeat my thanks to you personally, wishing you the best of health and happiness and further progress for the dear Syrian people under your wise leadership.

[Signed] Al-Husayn

Peres 'Maneuvers' Assailed After Cabinet Meeting

JN140953 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
14 May 87 pp 1, 19

[Editorial: "The Game of Playing for Time Continues"]

[Text] The results of yesterday's Israeli Inner Cabinet meeting were no different from what was widely expected on the eveof that session. The game of playing for time was expected to continue between the two parties of the Israeli Government to undermine the growing international approval of an international conference to bring peace to the Middle East.

The results of yesterday's meeting have proved irrefutably that everything Shim'on Peres was trying to sell to the entire world was completely baseless and that he was making pledges he could not honor — as proved by the great collapse of the Israeli peace game as well as the exposure of Peres' maneuver, which was about to fool a great many people.

The defeat of Shim'on Peres by his Likud partners in the coalition government, as well as the lack of any possible alternative from the Israeli Labor Party leader, confirm the thin ice on which this cunning fox tried to build delusions and pass them off to the world public as strong buildings of peace.

Shim'on Peres, who has long maneuvered to gain time and be portrayed as a sincere advocate of peace, yesterday paid the price of the game of cunning, deceit, and lies. He lied not only to Arabs, Americans, and Europeans, but also to the Israelis themselves who knew in advance the limits of Peres' political maneuvers, cunning, and various claims. This has deprived Peres of even the threat to dissolve the broad coalition government.

While the current stand within the Israeli Government was expected, our lengthy, bitter experience with these fanatic Israelis should prompt the Arabs to reconsider the basic elements of the current Arab situation. They should rebuild it more solidly so we may influence the events that are accelerating around us. We must not merely play the game of wait and see and react with stands and steps that cannot be sustained, which is what we expect now that the Israeli game has been exposed.

Kuwaiti Loan Finances Aqaba Road Construction

JN141950 Amman Television Service in English
1900 GMT 14 May 87

[Text] Jordan will receive a 4.3 million dinar loan from the Kuwaiti Fund for Arab Economic Development to help finance the construction of a road in the Aqaba region. The road between Wadi al-Yutm on the outskirts of Aqaba and a container port on the southern coast would relieve traffic congestion between the two regions. An agreement on the loan was signed today by Minister of Planning Tahir Kan'an and the Kuwaiti Fund's director, Mr Badr Mishari Humaydi. A spokesman for the ministry said that the project is expected to be completed by the middle of 1989.

Islamic Jihad Sends Hostage Steen Videocassette

NC141620 Paris AFP in English 1610 GMT 14 May 87

[Text] Beirut, May 14 (AFP) — The Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine (IJLP) on Thursday sent a video-cassette of American hostage Alann Steen to the independent daily Beirut newspaper *Al-Nahar*, in which it repeated a demand that Palestinian prisoners in Israel be released.

The three minute recording showed a bearded, bespectacled Mr. Steen wearing a black t-shirt and khaki trousers, sitting on the ground reading a message.

Last March 23 the IJLP announced Mr. Steen was ill and had only 10 days to live.

The 46-year-old lecturer from Beirut University College was kidnapped on January 24 with three other lecturers, Americans Robert Polhill and Jesse Turner and Indian national Mithileshwar Singh.

The group has said it would release the hostages in exchange for the release of prisoners held by Israel, which the Israeli Government has rejected.

Steen 'Accuses' U.S. Government

NC142006 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 14 May 87

[Text] The newspaper *Al-Nahar* has received a videocassette showing U.S. hostage Alann Steen, held captive along with three of his colleagues by the Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine. Steen is seen reading a statement, in which he accuses the U.S. Government of ignoring the fate of the hostages, and repeats the organization's demands for the release of a number of Arabs imprisoned in Israel.

The Voice of America said tonight the United States and Israel have rejected any sort of deal with the group holding the hostages.

Karami Urges Government Based on National Accord

NC150842 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 15 May 87

[Speech by Prime Minister Rashid Karami at a banquet to break the fast, at the Islamic Charitable Projects Society in Burj Abu Haydar in West Beirut on 14 May — recorded]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] I say again that when I left the meeting of the General Authority [as heard] determined to submit my resignation, I encountered a natural reaction. They said: Why resign now? Do you not realize the repercussions will be harmful to the country? I tell them I did not resign to escape or evade any responsibility, but as a way to make all officials reconsider their positions and convince them that all of us — people, government, and officials — should cooperate to rescue the country from its existing division and conflict. So long as this situation continues, disasters will increase, and there will be a more rapid collapse. It is imperative that we return to God and conscience and acknowledge the existing general situation so everyone may assume his responsibility, according to the Prophet's saying: Each of you is a shepherd, and each shepherd is responsible for his flock.

After the resignation, the same voices, which shortly before had insisted that I quit, accused me, through a statement by Karim Bey [Lebanese Forces Deputy Commander Karim Paqraduni], of shirking my responsibility. It was necessary, therefore, for me to reiterate my determination to resign and to repeat my previous and constant assertion that we must establish a program of solutions on which we can agree and to which we will commit ourselves. This is imperative if we are to emerge from today's deteriorating situation in the political, economic, social, and vocational spheres.

For this purpose I will support any government formed, and will cooperate with the implementation of any such plan. In the absence of such an agreement and determination to implement it, I say that any government, regardless of who it includes — even Reagan and Gorbachev — will fail. [applause]

I wish to emphasize this position, particularly from this place. Here our spirits rise to the loftiest positions, as we are now in the shade of Ramadan and meeting in a faithful congregation at the invitation of the Lebanese Islamic Society. We are in the month of fasting and must speak the truth. Anyone who desires Lebanon's good must listen to this address, understand its meaning, and do what is required to save ourselves, our society, and our people from this situation. If sincere patriotism and a determined sense of responsibility prevail and intentions are honest, then we must reject selfishness and renounce the privileges and instances of hegemony, which are the source of our disasters. We must return to a government by institutions, based on power sharing and consultation. Under such a government all will be equal.

I thank Brother Shaykh Nizar al-Halabi, chairman of the society. [applause] I pray that God will grant us success under the guidance of this noble month. May its return see Lebanon and all of us in the best of conditions. God is the listener, the giver. Peace be upon you.

Ja'ja' Condemns Presidential 'Hesitation'

NC150745 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 15 May 87

[Text] Samir Ja'ja', commander in chief of the Lebanese Forces, has said the only solution to the current crisis is to accept Prime Minister Karami's resignation. The resignation, he added, should not be seen as the cause of a political crisis.

Ja'ja' called on the president to use his constitutional powers and accept the resignation. He criticized the president's hesitation, saying: We have reached the point where Damascus is handling our government crisis. We will lose the war if our younger leaders look to elderly officials to resolve our country's problems. Ja'ja' then declared: We have files and records, which we will make public if necessary.

Hilu Advocates Patience in Dealing With Crisis
NC150952 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0915 GMT 15 May 87

[Text] Former President Charles Hilu has told the Voice of Lebanon that President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil is trying to resolve the government crisis within constitutional limits. He said: I support former President Camille Sham'un's statement that one must not be hasty in making a decision regarding the resignation. The issue has wider implications, and a decision cannot be made casually.

Presidential Delegation Returns From Damascus
JN141526 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1500 GMT 14 May 87

[Text] President Amin al-Jumayyil's envoys — Elie Salim, Simon Qassis, and Nicola Nasr — returned from Damascus this evening following 4 and 1/2 hours of talks. The discussions were attended on the Syrian side by Foreign Minister Faruq al- Shar' and Major General Ghazi Kan'an, chief of Syrian military intelligence in Lebanon.

Nothing has been disclosed thus far on this 12th round of Lebanese-Syrian talks. The only thing learned is that the Lebanese delegation will return to Damascus next week. However, sources in the delegation have told us that the question of power sharing continues to prevent progress in the talks.

PSP leader Walid Junblatt met with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam today for approximately 4 hours. Junblatt said the talks dealt with recent events in Beirut and its suburbs. When asked about his position on the Lebanese Government's resignation following that of Prime Minister Rashid Karami, Junblatt told journalists: I am only a minister in Rashid Effendi's government.

Meets With Al-Jumayyil
NC141720 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1700 GMT 14 May 87

[Text] Members of the Lebanese working team returned from Damascus this afternoon after holding talks with Syrian officials at the Foreign Ministry in Damascus. The team met with President al-Jumayyil to brief him on the consultations as soon as they arrived in Beirut.

Talks 'Stymied' by Power Sharing
NC150618 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0515 GMT 15 May 87

[Text] The 12th session of Lebanese-Syrian talks have been stymied by the complex issue of power sharing. Despite ongoing consultations, there has been no breakthrough in the Lebanese Government crisis. Sources close to the Lebanese delegation say that power sharing was the main topic of the 12th round of Lebanese-Syrian discussions, but no tangible progress was made. The sources add that during previous sessions some understanding had been achieved on other issues concerning political reform.

The sources say that new ideas on political power sharing were examined during the latest round of talks, but that they will be kept under wraps until they are further discussed and elaborated.

Karami Receives Soviet Foreign Ministry Official
NC141247 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 14 May 87

[Text] Prime Minister Rashid Karami met in his home at noon today with Vladimir Gudev, deputy chief of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Middle Eastern Countries Department. [title as heard] He was accompanied by Yuriy Suslikov, the Soviet charge d'affaires in Beirut. The discussion dealt with the local situation — particularly in the south — bilateral relations, and the international Middle East conference.

The Soviet diplomat had earlier visited Government House, where he met with Ambassador Samih al-Baba, director of the Foreign Ministry's political department.

Soviet Envoy Views Conference
NC141503 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1400 GMT 14 May 87

[Text] Soviet envoy Vladimir Gudev has resumed consultations with Lebanese officials as part of his exploratory mission in Lebanon. He met earlier today with Prime Minister Rashid Karami and Ambassador Samih al-Baba, director of the Foreign Ministry's political department.

Gudev, deputy chief of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Middle Eastern Countries Department, [title as heard] declared that the Soviet Union is prepared to accept any Lebanese views on participation in the international conference, provided these opinions represent the official Lebanese position.

He went on to say that Lebanon cannot dissociate itself from the surrounding situation, noting that Israeli intervention was a principal factor responsible for the current state of affairs. The Soviet envoy condemned Israel's recent attacks on Lebanese towns and Palestinian camps, stating that such acts run counter to all international laws and human principles.

SLA, Israeli Soldiers Reportedly Raid Town in South
NC141443 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1420 GMT 14 May 87

[Text] According to AFP, a number of Israeli and SLA soldiers have raided the town of Shab'a in the eastern sector of the security belt. The AFP report adds that an Israeli intelligence group interrogated three people and searched two houses while Norwegian UNIFIL troops in the area stood by and did nothing.

Israeli Reinforcements Sent to Hasbayya

NC150554 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0500 GMT 15 May 87

[Text] According to reports from the resisting areas, the Israeli occupation forces last night sent reinforcements of tank and halftrack columns to the Hasbayya axis in the eastern sector [of southern Lebanon]. Travelers from Hasbayya report that 20 armored vehicles have been sent to the Hasbayya area and deployed in Zaghlah, (Al-Nadi), Tallat 'Ayn Qinya, and Shwayya under the direct supervision of Zionist officers. This hostile force entered [Lebanese territory] from the occupied territories at 2200 the night before last, moving along the Marj 'Uyun-Al-Hasbani road.

Spokesman Dismisses Coup Attempt 'Rumors'

JN151128 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1100 GMT 15 May 87

[Text] Commenting on reports carried by some media 2 days ago on a coup attempt in Syria, a Syrian spokesman in Damascus today denied what he termed rumors that express the wishes and desires of those who made them up.

King Husayn, Delegation Visit Damascus 14 May

Meet With Al-Asad, Officials

JN141751 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 14 May 87

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan arrived in Damascus at 1815 today. He was welcomed at the airport by President Hafiz al-Asad. Vice Presidents 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Dr Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqa, Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm, the deputy prime ministers, a number of ministers, and General Hikmat al-Shihabi, chief of staff of the Army and Armed Forces, took part in the reception.

King Husayn was accompanied by a delegation comprising Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, Court Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, as well as Staff General al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces, and Dr Dawud Hananiya, director of medical services.

The president and his guest, King Husayn, headed for the presidential palace for a meeting. Syria was represented at the session by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Dr Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqa, Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', and Gen Hikmat al-Shihabi. The meeting was attended for Jordan by Zayd al-Rifa'i, 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, Al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, and Dr Dawud Hananiya.

President Hafiz al-Asad and King Husayn met behind closed doors at 1845.

President Hafiz al-Asad hosted an iftar [breaking of the fast at sundown] banquet in honor of His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal. The Syrians present included 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqa, Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm, Gen Hikmat al-Shihabi, and Faruq al-Shar'. It was attended on the Jordanian side by Zayd al-Rifa'i, 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, Al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, and Dr Dawud Hananiya. In addition to bilateral relations, the conversation dealt with the situation in the region and the Arab world.

Depart 14 May

JN150523 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 15 May 87

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn left Damascus last night following a working visit, during which he held talks with President Hafiz al-Asad at an expanded session attended by the Syrian and Jordanian delegations and at two closed meetings. King Husayn was seen off at the airport by President Hafiz al-Asad and by Vice Presidents 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Dr Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqa, Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', and Chief of Staff General Hikmat al-Shihabi. The Jordanian delegation accompanying King Husayn left Damascus with him.

The second closed meeting between the president and King Husayn was held at the presidential palace at 2040 yesterday. Members of the Syrian and Jordanian delegations joined the meeting at 2115. The talks dealt with issues relating to regional developments, all aspects of the Arab situation, and bilateral relations. [passage omitted]

Israeli, U.S. 'Schemes' Block Peace Conference

JN131658 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 13 May 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen, the arguments and ripostes in Israel between Yitzhaq Shamir and Shim'on Peres on the international Middle East peace conference have continued. The Israeli media, along with the U.S. and Western European propaganda machines, are trying to claim that the situation reflects deep differences between the two men and the political forces that back them. These media and propaganda machines are also attempting to make this appear as something threatening the downfall of the Israeli coalition government on one hand, and on the other the possibility of holding new parliamentary elections, with all that it entails: the suspension of political activities and the paralyzing of the government's ability or desire to make key decisions — like the one concerning the acceptance or rejection of the international conference, the convocation of which is gaining new momentum with the international community's support.

There is a U.S.-Western European emphasis on depicting what is taking place in Israel as a conflict between the pacifist doves represented by Peres who want to bring about peace and desire to attend the international conference on one hand, and the mischievous intransigent hawks represented by Shamir who have no inclinations toward peace on the other. This U.S. and Western European emphasis on this confict seeks to achieve one apparent objective: polishing Peres' image and presenting him to the international public as a pacifist and a pioneer of peace efforts in Israel who responds to the international community's calls to convene an international peace conference on the Middle East conflict. But things in Israel are different from the picture which the United States wants to promote in the eyes of the international public; it is a malicious bid to impose the settlement that the United States wants to see achieved in the Middle East.

Here we must note some important remarks that we should not allow ourselves to be oblivious to while following the developments taking place in Israel. The first remark concerns the fact that opting for general parliamentary elections in Israel automatically leads to a stalemate in Israeli political decisionmaking. This will temporarily save Israel from making decisive decisions in response to current international pressures which seek the convening of the international conference. Opting for the elections as a solution would coincide with the beginning of the last

year of the Reagan administration's term — a year that is usually characterized by anticipation, the dominance of a wait-and-see attitude, and the tendency to avoid conclusive choices. The last year of a U.S. Administration is followed by the first year of a new one, which is rarely marked by studies, the opening of files, or the making of key decisions.

Hence, the decision of Israeli officials to opt for elections certainly does not constitute a factor that serves the international conference idea, nor does it mean that the side which accepts the international conference idea is scoring a victory.

The second remark concerns the fact that Peres' announcement that he accepts the notion of an international conference is not actually an acceptance of the international conference as called for by the United Nations, the conference which the United States and Israel have managed to prevent from convening until now. Peres' announcement is an attempt to circumvent the original conception of the conference. Peres wants to use the conference to achieve what Israel was unable to obtain through wars, deception, and temptation coupled with intimidation; namely, direct negotiations between Israel and separate Arab parties that will finally confer international legitimacy on the Israeli occupation of all or most of the occupied Arab territories. Furthermore, these negotiations will result in the consecration of the Israeli confiscation of the Palestinian people's national rights.

The third remark concerns the fact which stipulates that there are no basic or essential differences between Shamir and Peres, and that the differences concern formalities. Both seek Israel's annexation of the occupied Arab territories, and both refuse to recognize the Palestinian Arab people's right to self-determination. Both reject the idea of establishing a national Palestinian state on Palestinian territory; both reject the idea of allowing the United Nations to play an active role in the international conference, and both refuse to abide by the UN resolutions on Palestine and the Middle East.

Shamir and Peres agree on the policy of annexation, on imposing faits accomplis, and on refusing to abide by resolutions and principles. They both seek to achieve the objectives of expansion in the region. They only differ on the means to achieve these ends.

What is being done by Israeli and U.S. rulers emphasizes that the Arabs' enemies are intensifying their efforts to prevent developments in international relations from affecting their schemes in the Middle East, and also emphasizes that they are trying to turn the current international pressures which seek the convening of the international conference into a factor that serves their interests. Will the Arabs stand by with their hands tied in the face of these efforts? Self-defense stipulates that the Arabs must initiate a joint effort and unified activities aimed at making the new developments in international relations serve their legitimate demands and objectives and not those of their enemies.

Shamir's Statement on Inner Cabinet Debate
TA141140 Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE in English 13 May 87

["Statement in English by the prime minister's spokesman at conclusion of Inner Cabinet debate on international conference, communicated by the prime minister's media adviser" — GPO headline; words within slantlines printed in boldface]

[Text] At the conclusion of the debate on the document presented by the vice premier and foreign minister on the international conference, the Labor Alignment did not submit the proposal to vote, and the vice premier explained that because opinion is equally divided in the Cabinet and a 5-5 vote was expected, there was no point in calling for a vote and therefore the vice premier proposed to call for elections. Following this the prime minister announced in the Cabinet that the effect of the vice premier's statement is that his proposal was not accepted by the Cabinet, and accordingly the foreign minister has no mandate to act in the international arena on the subject of an international conference.

The prime minister summed up the debate in the Cabinet as follows:

1. The proposal of the vice premier in regard to the participation of the State of Israel in an international conference was not accepted. The views of those opposed to the idea were clearly presented. The idea of an international conference will not lead to peace and is designed, whether we like it or not, to force Israel into an array of pressures which only those interested in massive concessions could support. The obscurity enveloping this course is intended to enable the PLO to receive an entrance ticket to the conference and to the diplomatic process, and to enable other elements whose positions are totally opposed to those of Israel to prejudice the vital interests of the state.

2. I must stress that the Cabinet and the government are united in their adherence to the continuation of the peace process. Our proposals too will be presented in detail as required. I wish to reiterate my invitation to Jordan, in accordance with the basic guidelines of the government of national unity, to open with them negotiations for peace, and we shall discuss proposals that Jordan will submit, taking into account their sensitivities, just as we expect them to take into account our sensitivities.

3. The framework for these negotiations must be such as will make possible a fair dialogue, free of pressure and from Israel's point of view, which must enable us to safeguard our national interests. This can be achieved only through direct negotiations during which the State of Israel faces Jordan. The Jordan delegation may include representatives of Palestinian Arabs who are acceptable to Jordan and Israel. In accordance with what was determined in the Camp David agreements, Israel is prepared for the participation of the United States and Egypt in these negotiations.

4. The position of Israel in the negotiations will be based upon the Camp David framework agreement, autonomy for the Arab inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza and after the transitional period, negotiations on the permanent status.

5. Our adherence to the Camp David agreement is self-understood. This is an international agreement which binds Israel, Egypt, and the United States, and at the conclusion of the evacuation of Sinai in April 1982 Israel and Egypt repeated their commitment to it. Israel paid a very high price for the agreement and will abide by it and its principles, and it has no reason whatsoever to waive its commitment or the commitment of any other party to it. We expect that the United States will honor its commitment on the subject just as it adheres to agreements directly affecting its own national security, and we believe that it will act accordingly. It is true that Jordan is not obligated by the Camp David agreement, but its content should constitute the positions of Israel, Egypt, and the United States in the negotiations.

6. We believe that the way to achieve negotiations is by means of open and public commitment to direct negotiations, if this, in fact, is the intention of Jordan, as is claimed. The important thing is what the Jordanian Government tells its own citizens and the world at large. We call on Jordan to display the necessary courage and come out openly in favor of direct negotiations with us. There is no place for obscure formulae which are open to interpretations, whose object is the participation of the PLO in the process, or the involvement of international elements whose attitude towards Israel's position is negative.

7. In addition to the peace negotiations, Israel is prepared to enter into negotiations with Jordan on regional topics of interest to both countries, such as the subject of water, cooperation in the ecology of the area, the development of the Red Sea basin and similar topics. On the subject of a regional and multilateral character such as the development of the Red Sea basin, Israel is prepared to cooperate also with Egypt and Saudi Arabia as riparian countries.

8. We say /yes/ to peace; /yes/ to negotiations; /yes/ to cooperation; /yes/ to practical arrangements with Jordan within the framework of the peace process; /yes/ to the participation of agreed- upon Palestinian representatives in the Jordanian delegation.

/No/ to an international conference of the United Nations, whose positions are well-known and opposed to our vital interests; /no/ to a framework whose object is to exercise pressure on Israel; and /no/ to inviting the PLO.

9. After the proposal for an international conference was not accepted, I am of the opinion that the national unity government can, and must, continue to function. I am convinced that the basic guidelines of the government constitute an adequate and proper framework for the activities of the entire government.

Let us make an effort to overcome the gaps which may have widened in recent days and let us work together for the sake of the country.

Foreign Ministry Refuses To Relay Shamir Message

TA141126 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1100 GMT 14 May 87

[Text] Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami has learned that yesterday the Foreign Ministry refused to convey the prime minister's statement following the Inner Cabinet meeting to Israel's representations abroad. Instead, a short message from the Foreign Ministry was sent to the representations this morning stating that no change in the political situation has taken place.

Shamir Advises U.S. Conference Moves Over

TA140435 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
0400 GMT 14 May 87

[Text] The director general of the Prime Minister's Office, Yosi Ben-Aharon, says he has delivered a message from Prime Minister Shamir to the U.S. Administration that, in the wake of yesterday's Inner Cabinet meeting, the steps relating to an international conference are over and nobody in the government is entitled to deal with the idea on behalf of the State of Israel. However, Ben-Aharon added that Shamir is determined to maintain the national unity government.

Today Ben-Aharon is to meet two senior State Department officials, Michael Armacost and Edward Djerejian.

Peres Leaves for U.S.; Peace Efforts To Continue

Departure News Conference

TA150442 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
0400 GMT 15 May 87

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres left early this morning for the United States. His first stop is New York, where he is due to meet leaders of the Presidents Conference of Majority American Jewish Organizations. Our Washington correspondent says that many of these leaders will seek to persuade Peres not to turn Israel's domestic dispute over the international conference into a public affair. Our reporter also says that efforts are under way to arrange a second meeting between Peres and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz in Washington, in addition to a session planned for New York. [passage omitted]

Speaking to reporters before leaving Ben-Gurion Airport last night, Foreign Minister Peres made it clear that he intended to pursue his peace efforts despite the Cabinet stalemate. Sabra Chartrand was at the airport:

[Begin recording] [Chartrand] Calling his efforts to convene an international conference central to the future of Jews and Arabs in this country, Peres said he will continue to use imagination, courage, and conviction to further his proposals.

[Peres] Well, they say winners don't quit, and quitters don't win. I don't intend to quit. I said it time and again: When you are in the midst of a struggle or a campaign — and we are near the clear-cut goal — don't give up in the middle, and we're in the middle of it. I intend to serve my country, and I intend to serve the peace process with every single ounce of strength I have and convictions I possess. I think it is a worthwhile cause that justifies both patience and constancy.

[Chartrand] Peres refused to speculate on how much damage has been done to his peace proposals by the split in the Cabinet, saying only that Israel is a democratic state and world leaders should judge the results of past government impasses.

[Peres] If the Arab world is judging by delivery, I think they have enough experience and strong enough memory to remember that on many issues our Cabinet was divided, and finally we made a decision: like on the issue, for example, of Lebanon; like on the issue, for example, of Taba; like on the issue, for example, of settlements on the West Bank. And even if the Arab world will not understand it, I don't suggest to change our system.

[Chartrand] The split in the Cabinet has left an open-ended situation, says Peres, and the center of Labor's effrts will be the peace process, and not elections. Foreign Minister Peres is scheduled to spend 3 days in the United States where he will meet tomorrow night in New York with Secretary of State George Shultz. [end recording]

Also on the plane to the United States this morning was Deputy Premier David Levi. Before leaving, he repeated the Likud Party's opposition to an international peace conference and expressed the hope that Labor would come to accept the view that the continuation of the national unity government was vital for the country.

More on News Conference

TA150451 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0405 GMT 15 May 87

[Text] Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister, flew to the United States after midnight last night. Before leaving he said he will continue his efforts to advance the peace process. In a news conference at Ben-Gurion Airport, Mr Peres said it is a matter of life and death which is vital to the future of our children, both Jewish and Arab. Our correspondent Dan Eshel reports:

[Begin recording] [Eshel] A small surprise awaited Shim'on Peres as he arrived at the airport yesterday. The Labor Party Young Guard members came to express support for the foreign minister. In the news conference Shim'on Peres praised the statement of Usamah al- Baz, President Mubarak's aide, in which he expressed support for bilateral talks:

[Peres] The efforts of my colleagues and myself are concentrated on the peace process, not the election campaign. We are proposing that elections be held in order not to destroy an unprecedented opportunity for opening negotiations without any preconditions. I reject with disgust the other things which have been tied to these negotiations, such as the rumors concerning territorial concessions. I support a clean debate. However, senior ministers — at least according to press reports — have spoken about territorial concessions. This is completely unture. Let me reiterate unequivocally: Nobody asked me, and I on my part did not

volunteer, to give up the territories or part of the territories, or to make functional or any other kind of concessions. The unique thing in these negotiations is that this is the first time that the two sides are to enter negotiations — and this contrary to Camp David, too — without anybody promising anything substantive and real before the negotiations.

[Eshel] Shim'om Peres was asked about the directives given to Israeli representatives abroad on explaining Israel's stand on the issue of the international conference:

[Peres] Israel's representatives abroad are the representatives of a democratic country, and they know that there is no Inner Cabinet decision for or against direct negotiations with an international opening. They will explain that Israel is searching for a way toward peace and direct negotiations. If this way has to go through an international corridor or opening, then it will go through this corridor. [end recording]

Alignment Aiming for Elections Within 45 Days

TA141522 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1400 GMT 14 May 87

[Text] Elections within 45 days — this is what the Alignment will work for. This was stated by Minister Moshe Shahal, head of the Alignment's special team in charge of conducting negotiations for early elections. Minister Shahal was talking in Caesarea, and our correspondent Shlomi Stein heard him there.

[Begin recording] [Stein] Tomorrow morning the special team that includes Moshe Shahal, Rafi Edri, and 'Uzi Bar'am will begin to act for early elections. The head of the team, Minister Moshe Shahal, said today that the talks will be held openly and not under the cover of darkness. The Alignment does not have new proposals on religious affairs to make to the religious parties, he said, immediately adding that a dialogue rather than a monologue will take place with these parties. The date of the elections should be soon, and the team will act to have the elections take place within 45 days.

[Shahal] In my opinion, elections can be held within 45 days. This is surely our desire. I think this will be economical, will not be a burden to the economy, and will provide an immediate solution. The public is aware of the problems. It has heard the voices and can decide. We will aim at having a very short election campaign. I would say that 45 days are the maximum, but elections can be held even earlier.

[Stein] Those who fear elections know that they do not enjoy the public's support, Shahal added. Shahal also had something to say about the Likud's behavior.

[Shahal] I hope that Mr Shamir and the Likud ministers will do some soul-searching and reach the conclusion that they cannot impose a veto on behalf of the people, that they cannot refuse to accept or take into consideration the views of this half.

[Stein] Minister Shahal firmly denied reports that he had handed Peres an opinion to the effect that there is a Knesset majority for early elections. We have not dealt with any Knesset political or partisan element about early elections; we have only acted on behalf of the political plan for peace. [end recording]

Crisis Over Conference Prompts Press Comment

TA140905 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0800 GMT 14 May 87

[Review of midday press editorials]

[Text] The three midday newspapers write about the crisis over the international conference. *Ma'ariv* writes that everyone has lost. No decision was reached by the Inner Cabinet; economic stability is in danger; no chance of progressing toward peace exists; and worst of all, there is little hope that the elections to be held shortly or in another year will ensure our extrication from the imbroglio.

Yedi'ot Aharonot says that the only choice left is to summon the national arbitrator, President Hayim Herzog, to save the government. He has already proven his ability in several crises; thus, the party leaders should approach him — not to demand a new government, which there is no chance of establishing, but rather to maintain the current government.

Hadashot defines the situation as paralysis. The situation necessitates the severing of ties between the partners. According to the paper, the leaders of the Alignment and the Likud must part, preferably gracefully.

Likud-SHAS Deal Foresees Peretz Ministerial Post

TA151055 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1000 GMT 15 May 87

[Text] Next Monday Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir will submit to the Knesset a proposal to reappoint Rabbi Yitzhaq Peretz of SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] to the post of interior minister.

Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that in a meeting in the Prime Minister's Bureau, with the participation of the prime minister, Ministers Peretz and Nisim, Deputy Minister Milo, and Knesset Member Olmert, an agreement was achieved between the Likud and SHAS concerning the issue of religious legislation. Our political correspondent has learned that the Likud promised to pass the Rabbinical Courts Law within a given period of time.

Deputy Minister Milo told our political correspondent that he is satisfied to vacate the Interior Ministry office in favor of Rabbi Peretz, and expressed the hope that initiatives which he started during his short tenure — mainly the extradition order against RabbiMondrowitz and the permit to build a soccer stadium in the Menahat neighborhood of Jerusalem — would be continued.

Labor Supporters 'Anxious' About Party Policy

TA140707 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 14 May 87 p 4

[Report by David Rudge]

[Text] The Labour Party could lose votes even among traditional supporters if it goes to the country on the issue of an international peace conference, according to grass-roots Labour activists in the north.

They have found that the idea of an international conference raises the spectre of massive territorial concessions in the minds of the electorate.

Assurances by Labour leaders that the talks would merely be a prelude to direct negotiations and that Israel, backed by the Americans, could walk out any time, apparently failed to reassure the worriers.

One regional Labour source said he had received many calls from anxious supporters trying to clarify the extent of proposed territorial concessions for peace.

People, he said, had been deeply concerned by reports of a prior agreement with King Husayn whereby Israel would return most of the land occupied since 1967, as well as control of East Jerusalem.

Although the reports were subsequently denied by Vice Premier Peres and Likud leaders, the fear of what Israel might be asked to give up has already been planted in people's minds, said the source.

He maintained that Labour could lose many of its traditional supporters if it did not allay the fears and counter the negative statements of the opposition.

A straw poll conducted by *The Jerusalem Post* indicated that the official's concern, about his party's chances in an election with peace talks as the main issue, was justified.

The random survey among elibible voters revealed a hardening of attitudes and an apparent swing towards the smaller parties both on the left and the right.

Several people referred to the concessions made to Egypt, charging that the peace accord had not matched expectations, at least not on the Israeli side. "We gave up all of Sinai in return for what? A cold peace that at best is a state of non-belligerency?" asked a Technion student.

The 28-year-old student said he had voted for the Likud in the last elections but would probably vote for Tehiya next time.

'Second-rate' Knesset Factions' 'Finest Hour'

A141500 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 14 May 87 pp 1, 2

[Article by political correspondent Refa'el Mann: "Second-rate Knesset Members' Finest Hour Has Begun Under the Slogan: Squeeze Out as Much as You Can"]

[Text] The Alignment's decision to take action to bring elections forward will push the government into a "twilight zone" of ceaseless crises. This will also be a horse-trading season and the finest hour of second-rate Knesset members who will collect the highest price for their vote.

The threads which held the government together began to unravel over the past few months and are now awaiting the final rent which will tear them apart, a rent which is no longer up to Peres or Shamir but will rather be dealt by some risible bodies demanding a price.

The Alignment, which chose to remain in the government and fight from the inside in order to bring elections forward, will meanwhile find itself in a difficult situation. It will have to swallow no- confidence motions tabled by the opposition even though it may identify with them.

It will be in a much more difficult situation if Shamir decides to fire Peres from the government owing to the latter's continued activities on behalf of an international conference. What will the Alignment do then? Will it swallow such a move, or will it then decide to move to the opposition?

The Alignment will try to persuade Shamir that in its present constellation, the government cannot operate properly for a long time. Still, troubled relations within the government have never forced ministers out of their offices; only the raised hands of Knesset members have done that.

If it is true that King Husayn agreed to direct negotiations under the aegis of an international umbrella, he will now have to wait patiently until this government disbands, new elections are held, and another government is established. No doubt, he will need a great deal of patience.

AL-TALI'AH: Conference 'Cover' for Labor Program

TA141808 Jerusalem AL-TALI'AH in Arabic 14 May 87 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "The Secret of Peres' Zeal for the International Conference"]

[Text] Shim'on Peres' zeal for the international conference can be considered neither an awakening with regard to the events and realities of the conflict in the region, nor an acknowledgment of the defeat of Israeli policies. Rather it is a continuation of these policies under another name.

The only conclusion drawn from the zeal being displayed by Peres toward the international conference is that he has received

specific assurances from the Jordanian and Egyptian sides that the international conference will be merely a cover to implement the Israeli Labor Party program on the Palestinian problem.

This explains the Labor Party's support, by its doves and hawks, for Shim'on Peres in his disagreement with Shamir, just as it explains the rallying of the Likud around the position of its leader, who strongly opposes Peres' position.

The readiness of both sides to break up the coalition government, the hint by the Labor Party that it is prepared to plunge into new elections, and the Likud's opposition to this, indicate that the Labor Party is now able to face the voters and tell them that its program on the Palestinian problem has the possibility of being implemented through the agreement of prominent Arab parties, while no such possibility is available for the Likud program.

Hence, those Arabs who are applauding Shim'on Peres are doing this, wittingly or unwittingly, for the Israeli Labor Party program, which stipulates keeping vast areas of the West Bank under direct Israeli rule. It also stipulates maintaining authority and running the "security" affairs of all the occupied territories as well as annexing Jerusalem and the Golan.

This is the reality of the situation, and none of it can be changed by the claim of some who are applauding progress in the "peace process" and Mubarak's alleged success in convincing Peres to agree to the "international conference."

Arabs Urged To Adopt Independent Stance on Talks

TA121743 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 10 May 87 p 1

[Editorial: "The Final Analysis"]

[Text] Israeli Minister Without Portfolio Moshe Arens talks with an air of certainty about the possibility of annexing the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip to Israel in light of Jewish settlement. Meanwhile Minister Without Portfolio 'Ezer Weizman talks seriously about the possibility of meeting PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in view of the opportunities provided by the proposed international conference. Between the positions of these two Israeli ministers, who actually possess no real decisionmaking power in Israel, move the makers of the so far invisible decision in Israel, amid a wave of rhetoric and statements that is flooding the entire region.

In the final analysis though, the current Israeli process will embrace the "possibility" of neither Arens nor Weizman, but very simply will endeavor to merge soon with an Israeli Knesset election campaign 1 year ahead of schedule, as news reports indicate, or at its specified date more than a year from now.

This "campaign" should arouse the interest of some Arab governments, particularly when they sense in it the outlines of the next Israeli Government, on one hand, and the dimensions and shape of the Arab-Israeli conflict on the other. This reality, however, does not mean under any circumstances that the interested Arab governments should make their affairs and political positions contingent on the results of this Israeli campaign alone. Neither should they link the possibility of convening the international conference to one Israeli party, while at the same time ruling it out from another Israeli party, without having their own clear, ready, and independent decision regardless of whether the Israeli Government is headed by the Alignment or the Likud, or whether the coalition government is reestablished with two or even three heads.

We are observing that interest in what is happening in Israel, as far as the Alignment and Likud are concerned, is greater in the Arab region, both from the average citizen and the governments, than interest in what is happening or should happen within the Arab countries themselves. Therein lies an amazing anomaly whereby the Arab position is being replaced by the Israeli position in a very heated and fateful drama.

If some voices here and there, even beyond the Arab arena, have found an opportunity in this anomaly to raise doubts and to mislead, it is a transitory opportunity that will never last and will never achieve anything.

AL-QUDS Urges Arabs to Reassess Position on Talks

TA140616 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 11 May 87 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Exploring the International Conference"]

[Text] The U.S. special envoy on Middle East affairs affirmed the day before yesterday that the United States considers bilateral negotiations and not an international peace conference to be the key to resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict. He explained that his country is not keen on the idea of the international conference, and that it is talking about it merely as a means to explore the possibility of using the international conference to reach face-to-face bilateral talks.

With this stance the United States has been able to merge the positions of Labor Party leader Shim'on Peres with those of Likud leader Yitzhaq Shamir. Peres is trying to explore the possibilities of an international conference as a means for direct bilateral negotiations, while Shamir is striving for direct direct bilateral negotiations without any need for an international conference cover, or "international umbrella," or any other cover.

Talk about the international conference has become a pastime for all parties involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict. All are talking about the conference and all are exploiting the idea and are competing with each other in endorsing or rejecting it for reasons related to party and regional interests and international relations. The meaning and aims of convening the international conference have been lost in the huge uproar and have turned into mere political trading pursued by all without troubling themselves to define the framework, principles, and goals of the conference.

The United States is expressing with utmost clarity the views of the major Israeli parties and does not want to irritate anyone in Israel. It backs Shamir by adhering to direct bilateral talks and supports Peres by using such terms as exploring the international conference and the possibility of its use as a means for crossing over to the shores of direct bilateral negotiations.

The Arab parties to the conflict, with their diversity of approaches, intentions, and alliances, are calling for the convocation of an international peace conference without defining the participating parties, specifically the PLO, and without clarifying the difference between an international conference in which negotiations are held through the United Nations and the Security Council permanent member states and a conference that is used as an umbrella and cover for direct bilateral talks.

If Murphy's remarks are proof of anything, it is that the United States is adhering to the views of both Shamir and Peres. As for the Arab parties that are still betting on a neutral or positive U.s. role, these remarks put an end to all illusions that strive to make a reality out of a mirage and dreams. All the Arab parties to the conflict should reassess their positions and define the international conference's foundations, principles, and framework, as well as the parties that must take part in the conference and the nature of this participation.

Group Leaves Progressive List; Considering Moves

TA121617 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 12 May 87 p 5

[Report by Qasim Zayd]

[Text] Knesset Member [MK] Matityahu Peled's attempts to prevent a split within the Progressive Movement, the Arab partner of the Progressive List for Peace, have failed. One of its groups has resigned from the Progressive List, not only from the Arab movement.

Last week MK Matityahu Peled met with some of the most important activists from the Progressive Movement and tried to speak to their hearts, in order to postpone their decision to resign from the Arab movement until a further clarification could be made by the Progressive List institutions common to Jews and Arabs.

Members of the group, who rejected MK Peled's appeal, said they had exhausted "all the paths" and reached "the last straw." "We cannot take any more."

Expressing respect for MK Peled's position, they said he was "showing understanding for the dispute" between them and the leaders of the Arab movement.

Members of the resigning group claim the leaders of the Progressive Movement, including the secretary general, the priest Riyah Abu al-'Asal, are trying to run the movement in an individualistic way, without asking for the views of the members of the movement's institutions. Members of the group told our correspondent they can no longer accept the stifling of the movement's voice.

Our correspondent has learned that the members of the resigning group are considering their future moves jointly, not as individuals. However, at this stage they have refused to show their cards.

One of the prominent members told me: "In the near future we will announce what path we will take. It is clear that we will not be putting on house slippers."

Compromise Within Gush Emunim Averts Split

TA150637 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 15 May 87

[Text] A split in the Gush Emunim Settlement Movement was avoided last night after a marathon 9-hour meeting of the inner leadership. As part of the compromise, Daniyela Weiss will continue as the Movement secretary, Rabbi Moshe Levinger will remain its ideological head, but several more moderate members will now take part in the ruling Secretariat. At the all-night meeting was reporter Dick Winter:

[Begin recording] [Winter] Considering the state of the Gush Emunim Movement before tonight's meeting, with opposition members Hanan Porat and Yo'el Bin-Nun threatening to try and expel Secretary Daniyela Weiss, it was a truimphant Weiss who came out of the meeting room at 0430:

[Weiss] I continue with work as general secretary of the Movement, and Hanan Porat was asked by the Secretariat of Gush Emunim to take the portfolio of hasbara [information] and education. Yo'el Bin-Nun will continue to serve as a member of the Secretariat of Gush Emunim, and other members of the mazkirut [Secretariat] were asked to take jobs like treasurer, and political committee Beni Qatzover will head, and so on some other jobs.

[Winter] Another key element in the compromise: The ideological head of the gush, its founder and one of its most militant members, Rabbi Moshe Levinger, will remain as the Movement's leader.

With an expanded Secretariat and new, more democratic bodies, including a 300-member workers council, the leaders of the opposition say the Movement will be more democratic in future.

As for the ideological differences within the Gush, before the meeting there were charges that Daniyela Weiss and Rabbi Levinger had steered the Movement away from its traditional emphasis on settlement in the territories to more militant topics, like the Jewish underground. But last night's meeting dealt more with tactics than with ideology.

[Weiss] We haven't dealt with ideological subjects, and we decided to bring to the broader body on Monday three major subjects.

[Winter] Those subjects: the establishment of more settlements in the territories, the issue of terror and security, and finally the Gush's opposition to the international peace conference. [end recording]

Goren Urges Broader Role for Border Police

TA121442 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 12 May 87 p A2

[Report by Yosef Walter]

[Excerpts] "If the political process continues, increased terrorism and breaches of the public order are to be expected in Judaea and Samaria." This was said by the coordinator of government activities in the territories, Shmu'el Goren, in an interview with *Ma'ariv*. [passage omitted]

"It is impossible to say that terrorism is due to settlement. That phenomenon began even before there was massive settlement throughout Judaea and Samaria. On the other hand, Jewish settlement does not please the residents of the territories, and this is not causing calm. What is clear is that the conduct of certain Jews is an inflammatory factor. When troublemakers throw stones at Arab houses, this certainly causes ferment." The coordinator of government activities believes the size of the Border Police should be increased considerably.

He explained: "The security tasks in the territories do not require a military presence, armored personnel carriers, and firing weapons, but policemen with police batons and weapons. Keeping public order in Judaea and Samaria is not a job for the IDF. The Army has to prepare for war, not deal with searches of women and old people. For that we need the Border Police, whose tasks include such missions.

"There are objective reasons why it is difficult to implement the idea, but there is no argument over the fact that the Border Police in the area must be reinforced. Discussions are being held on this, but there are still budgetary problems, problems of manpower, and so on."

Goren said the Jewish settlers in Judaea and Samaria must know that they are living in an area with very great security sensitivity and that there is no way one can compare conditions in Alfe Menashe and Qarne Shomron to those on Dizengoff Street in Tel Aviv or any other settlement in the center of Israel. He added: "We are aware of the great sensitivity and are doing what we can with the means at our disposal."

He attributes great importance to the actions of the Civilian Administration in Judaea and Samaria, which is looking after the public that distances itself from terrorism and permitting these people to live normal lives while avoiding attacking the innocent. He said: "If we do not do this, a currently quiet public may be aroused. Therefore the administration must increase its efforts to look after the welfare of the inhabitants. If we had not done this, terrorism might have increased."

The coordinator disclosed that the day before yesterday an agreement was signed with the president of the Cairo-Amman Bank, according to which the bank will open three more branches in Judaea and Samaria. The bank president has informed the Civilian Administration that he has received $2 million from the European Common Market to give loans to businessmen in Judaea and Samaria.

Shomron Critical of Settlers' Behavior

TA121757 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 12 May 87

[Text] The chief of the General Staff, Lieutenant General Dan Shomron, has criticized the behavior of militant Jewish settlers in the administered territories and warned that there will be no private militias. Gen Shomron was appearing for the first time before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee after becoming chief of staff. Our correspondent Jack Katzenell reports:

[Begin recording] Gen Shomron said the unification of the Palestine National Council in Algiers around what he called an extremist position had caused unrest in the administered territories, including the Arab universities, and there had been an upsurge of fire-bomb attacks against Israeli vehicles. Shomron was worried by the behavior of the militants among the Jewish settlers, in particular Daniyela Weiss, the secretary of the Gush Emunim movement, toward the Army. The soldiers are only doing their duty, Shomron said, and the settlers are spitting into the well from which they draw their water. The IDF has to protect the security of Jews and Arabs, but it is a difficult job, and the Army is often busier in Judaea and Samaria than on the Golan front or the Lebanese border. Maintaining law and order in the territories causes interruptions in training programs, the general said. He was in favor of putting more draftees into the Border Police, which is better suited than the Army for controlling disturbances, and issuing the Army with more nonlethal equipment for dispersing demonstrations. We must not create a situation in which the Arab population has nothing to lose, Shomron said, and the Jewish settlers must understand that it is in their interest to cooperate with the Army. There was no justification for the Qiryat Arba' committee for the protection of road traffic, the chief of staff said. There will be no private militias. I am sure that we will achieve a higher level of security, although terrorist attacks and stonethrowing can never be completely eliminated. [end recording]

Public Opposes West Bank Territorial Concessions

TA121542 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 12 May 87 p 6

[Text] The Modi'in Ezrahi Institute, under the direction of Dr Mikha Hope, recently conducted a public opinion poll regarding the public's attitude toward Judaea and Samaria and this area's relation to the peace process with Jordan.

Mod'in Ezrahi's polls sample Israel's urban and rural areas, excluding the Arab villages, the kibbutzim, and the settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Golan heights. The poll represents the adult population in Israel. The present poll included 1,236 interviewees.

The interviewees were asked two questions. The first question was: "Do you favor a peace agreement with Jordan that would call upon Israel to give up territories in Judaea and Samaria?"

The findings are given in comparison with similar polls conducted last year:

— I agree to evacuate all of Judaea and Samaria, including east Jerusalem: 4.4 percent (April 1987), 3.1 percent (October 1986), 3.7 percent (March 1986).

— I agree to evacuate all of Judaea and Samaria except for East Jerusalem: 15.4 percent (April 87), 14.4 percent (October 86), 15.6 percent (March 86).

— I agree to evacuate certain parts of Judaea and Samaria: 32 percent (April 87), 31.8 percent (October 86), 33.2 percent (March 86).

— I am against any concession: 46.4 percent (April 87), 47.7 percent (October 86), 44.9 percent (March 86).

— Did not answer: 1.9 percent (April 87), 3.0 percent (October 86), 2.6 percent (March 86).

The second question was whether the interviewees were willing for Jewish settlements in Judaea and Samaria to be evacuated in exchange for a peace agreement with Jordan:

— I agree to an evacuation of all the Jewish settlements in Judaea and Samaria: 9.2 percent (April 87), 7.0 percent (October 86), 12 percent (March 86).

— I agree to an evacuation of some of the Jewish settlements in Judaea and Samaria: 26 percent (April 87), 22 percent (October 86), 23.5 percent (March 86).

— I agree only to a freeze of new settlements: 23.9 percent (April 87), 30.9 percent (October 86), 25.3 percent (March 86).

— I do not agree even to a freeze of new settlements: 37.9 percent (April 87), 36.6 percent (October 86), 35.5 percent (March 86).

— Did not answer: 3.1 percent (April 87), 3.6 percent (October 86), 3.7 percent (March 86).

The findings of the poll indicate that the Israeli public's stand regarding the issue of Judaea and Samaria is stable; the slight differences in the answers over a preiod of 1 year are to be expected.

Almost half of the public is consistently against any territorial concession in Judaea and Samaria. Approximately 62 percent of the interviewees were against the evacuation of settlements in Judaea and Samaria, even in exchange for a peace agreement with Jordan.

Military Bans West Bank Student Election

TA121309 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 12 May 87 p 4

[Report by Uri Nir]

[Text] Yesterday the Military Government in Judaea and Samaria banned the holding of elections to the Student Council of the Nabulus Al-Awdah College.

The day before yesterday the director of the Al-Awdah professional college was summoned to a talk with the Nabulus governor, who informed him that the law forbids the holding of elections in the college. That night the security forces carried out combing operations in Al-Awdah College and confiscated the ballot booths and propaganda material belonging to the competing lists. Yesterday morning roadblocks were set up on the roads leading to the college in order to prevent the students' free access to the site.

The director of Al-Awdah College, Salah 'Abd al-Hadi, said last night that the Nabulus governor had explained to him that elections to the student councils in the West Bank educational institutions were forbidden by virtue of Jordanian law. The *Ha'aretz* correspondent comments that on the surface the law also applies to other educational institutions in which such elections are held, but this time it was decided to impose it because this is the first time that students of this college have decided to hold elections and because security elements thought that the election campaign would involve much hostile propaganda. Last night security sources reported that a great deal of inflammatory material used in the election campaign had been discovered during the searches in the institution. This is the first time the military government has banned elections to the student council of a higher educational institution in the territories.

In the near future the deportations of two student activists from the Bi'r Zayt and Al-Najah Universities in the West Bank are expected. At the end of last week Marwan Barghuthi, the head of the Student Council of Bi'r Zayt University, announced his decision to cancel his appeal against the deportation order issued against him. Halil 'Ashur, the former head of the Student Council of Al-Najah University, is also considering canceling his appeal to the High Court of Justice against the deportation order issued against him. If 'Ashur's attorney officially announces the decision, the two will be deported from Israel within the next few days.

Jordan Allows Waqf To Resort to Israeli Courts

TA131608 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 12 May 87 p 1

[Excerpts] Jerusalem — The head of the Islamic Religious Trusts in Jerusalem and chairman of the Awqaf Council have received a letter — reference No 87/77 dated 9 April 1987 — from Awqaf attorney 'Isam al-'Anani informing them that the Islamic Religious Trusts Ministry in Amman consents to taking legal action in Israeli courts in Jerusalem. [Passage omitted] It is worth noting that this is the first time since 1967 that the Jordanian Government in Amman has officially allowed affiliated West Bank institutions to file complaints in Israeli courts.

Awqaf Chairman Comments

TA131616 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 13 May 87 p 1

[Statement by the chairman of the Jerusalem Awqaf Council]

[Text] In reference to what was published in AL-FAJR on 12 May 1987 regarding the position of the Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Department in Jerusalem with respect to filing com-

plaints with the courts in order to regain the rights of Awqaf properties, the Awqaf Council would like to make clear that for many years now the Awqaf has resorted to courts in the occupied territories and Arab Jerusalem, which is an indivisible part of these territories, to regain Awqaf properties and halt the confiscation of Awqaf real estate.

The Awqaf has actually succeeded in regaining a large number of these properties and protecting the rights of Muslims in them.

As everyone is aware, the Awqaf in Jerusalem owns tracts of land. Some of these have been confiscated, some are being subjected to confiscation measures, and others have been taken over by Jerusalem municipality, which still refuses to hand them back to the Awqaf.

In view of the current situation threatening the Awqaf Islamic properties, safeguarding the properties of muslims is one of the most important priorities preoccupying the Awqaf Council and Awqaf departments. We shall not remain silent in the face of any injustice inflicted on the properties of Muslims because they are under our trusteeship.

Jerusalem was and, God willing, will remain Arab and Islamic for eternity, and the Muslims will remain, as before, to safeguard the Arab and Islamic aspect of this city despite the aversion of malicious people.

(Signed) Sa'd al-Din al-'Alami, chairman of High council of Awqaf, Islamic Affairs, and Holy Places

Rabin Says Lebanese Government Should Help South

TA121656 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1600 GMT 12 May 87

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says that the security zone is an inseparable part of Lebanon and that the government in Beirut must see to its interests, just as it takes care of any other part of Lebanon, including the areas under Syrian control. Minister Rabin visited southern Lebanon today and was briefed by several dozen dignitaries from local villages about their problems in the civilian sphere. He promised to help as much as possible to make life easier for the inhabitants of the security zone. Mr Rabin emphasized, however, that if there is no calm on the Israeli side of the border, there will be no calm on the Lebanese side.

HA'ARETZ Lists 'Terrorist' Deployment in Lebanon

TA131457 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 13 May 87 p 2

[Report by military correspondent Re'uven Pedatzur]

[Text] The Palestinian organizations currently have 10,000 fighters throughout Lebanon. The Fatah-'Arafat sha e is the largest, with 4,000 men.

Some 3,500 terrorists are operating in the Sidon area, of whom 2,000 belong to 'Arafat's organization. There are 2,500 terrorists in the Beirut area, of whom approximately 1,500 are 'Arafat's men. In Tyre there are 500 terrorists, 150 of them Fatah members. There are 700 terrorists in the Tripoli area and 1,500 in the Al-Biqa' region — all members of the Salvation Front.

Another 1,400 terrorists are deployed in the hilly region, namely in the environs of Iqlim al-Kharrub and Al-Damur.

Any Palestinian who joins Fatah and has some military background receives a monthly salary of 6,000 Lebanese pounds (approximately $300). Those who enlist with the Palestinian militias make approximately $100 a month.

The Shi'ite Amal Movement has at its disposal between 5,000 and 6,000 fighters deployed in southern Lebanon, who are divided into regional units. Additionally, several hundred Amal fighters are active in the Beirut area, particularly its western part. These fighters have some 25 to 30 T-54 tanks, handed over to Amal by the Syrian Army.

Hizballah has between 2,000 and 3,000 fighters who have undergone military training. Hizballah is not under any joint command, so initiatives for terrorist operations in the south are the fruit of local commanders' initiatives. At the same time, every military operation is approved by the supreme religious-political leadership, which includes among its ranks 'Abbas Musawi, Ibrahim 'Abdallah, and Shaykh Fadlallah.

AL-QUDS: Tindemans Says Arabs 'Abandoning' PLO

TA141607 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic
13 May 87 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Tindemans and the True Arab Positions"]

[Text] The statements by Belgian Foreign Minister Leo Tindemans on the positions of Arab countries he visited and their opposition to PLO participation in an international conference are a direct reflection of the state of impotence and deterioration being experienced by the diplomatic and political infrastructures in the Arab world.

Our fears were oriented toward the meetings of the Belgian foreign minister with Israeli decisionmakers, especially with regard to their position rejecting the right of the Palestinian people to self- determination and the right to choose their representatives, and ultimately their absolute rejection of the principle of PLO participation in political efforts to advance the peace process.

Apparently the fears of the Palestinian people must now extend to a large number of Middle East countries. Despite the Arab governments' commitment to the necessity of PLO participation in political efforts and an international conference, Tindemans' statements prove that the Arab governments' positions are no more than proclamations for local consumption. It has become clear that the true positions of the Arab governments are represented in statements uttered in foreign languages to senior guests and visitors. As regards statements made in the Arabic language

through radio stations and newspapers, they absolutely do not reflect the essence of these positions.

Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter said in his memoirs that he did not hear a commitment to or insistence on the establishment of an independent Palestinian state from any of the Arab leaders he met. Today Belgian Foreign Minister Tindemans is talking about the Arab governments' agreement to abandoning the PLO and, ultimately, the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. He also must have heard from Israeli decisionmakers about their positions rejecting the principle of PLO participation in any effort to advance the peace process. Thus the task of seeking alternatives to the PLO has become an Arab-Israeli one.

During his visit Tindemans met with a number of people from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. They heard from the visiting minister how Belgium was able to convince the EEC countries last December to issue a statement on the Arab-Israeli conflict, together with statements issued on the situation in Afghanistan, South Africa, Nicaragua, and other topics, and how most of the EEC countries would have liked not to get into the subject of the Arab-Israeli conflict but to leave this issue on the sidelines.

The visiting minister, however, heard from the Palestinian figures about the eagerness of the Palestinian people to achieve a comprehensive, durable, and just peace ensuring that all parties to the conflict, foremost of them the Palestinian people, can live in freedom, security, and stability, bearing in mind that this cannot be achieved through attempts to ignore the Palestinian people's national legitimate rights or by creating methods that enable some of the parties to the conflict to choose representatives for the Palestinian people whom they consider helpless or in need of guardianship. Undoubtedly the visiting minister realized completely that the Palestinian people will never accept being under the guardianship of any party, regardless of its motives and justifications, because this is apt to eliminate all serious peace efforts.

Peres Proposes New Candidate for Envoy to U.S.

TA150502 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
0400 GMT 15 May 87

[Excerpts] Before leaving for the United States, Foreign Minister Peres proposed a new candidate for the post of ambassador to Washington: Tel Aviv University Prof Itamar Rabinowitz. This is reported by the Voice of Israel's Washington correspondent Shim'on Schiffer. The choice of ambassador has been a matter of controversy for some time. On the background to the latest proposal, Tzvi Pantonowitz:

As we heard, Foreign Minister Peres is understood to have informed Prime Minister Shamir of his latest choice before undertaking his U.S. visit, and the premier promised to consider the proposal. They are to discuss it when the foreign minister returns from the United States. [passage omitted]

The latest Peres candidate, Professor Rabinowitz, heads the Dayan Institute for Strategic Studies at Tel Aviv University, and is an expert on Syria and Lebanon. He has indicated that he would accept the post if it has the approval of the prime minister as well.

Soviet Delegation Arrives for WWII Commemoration

TA141923 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1900 GMT 14 May 87

[Text] A six-member Soviet delegation arrived in Israel this evening to participate in celebrations marking the 42d anniversary of the victory over Nazi Germany. Our correspondent Tal Rabina notes that the delegation includes Soviet officials, writers, and artists. The delegation members said they were not conveying an official message but expressed support for an international conference.

Mexican Minister of Energy Arrives for Talks

TA110820 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 11 May 87 p 3

[ITIM report]

[Text] On his arrival yesterday afternoon for an official visit to Israel, Alfredo Del Mazo Gonsalez, Mexican minister of energy, mines, and parastate industry, said his country is interested in expanding the fields of economic cooperation between the two friendly countries, particularly in the sphere of high technology and various branches of the mining and solar energy fields.

The Mexican energy minister came to Israel at the head of a delegation of six people, including the director general of Mexico's bank for foreign trade, the director of the Mexican bank of commerce, and the director general of the country's petrochemical industry. He will meet here with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister, and Energy Minister Moshe Shahal, who received him at the airport.

The delegation will tour industrial and agricultural plants, including high-technology plants, and will also visit the Weizmann Institute of Science and plants producing solar energy.

Israel purchases from Mexico more than 35 percent of the oil it consumes, and the trade balance between the two countries is heavily weighted against Israel. In 1986 Israel purchased $300 million-worth of oil from Mexico, while Mexico purchased goods from Israel worth only $15 million.

In his greeting Mr Shahal said Israel feels special admiration for Mexico's reliable and firm stand in supplying oil to Israel even during the time of the great oil embargo of the 1970's. Israel is certainly interested in continuing to purchase its oil from Mexico, Minister Shahal said. At the same time, we must work to improve the trade balance between the two countries.

Comments on Cooperation
TA140710 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 14 May 87 p 6

[Report by economic affairs correspondent Avi Temkin]

[Text] Mexico and Israel may become involved in a number of joint ventures within the framework of stronger bilateral technological ties, Mexican Energy Minister Alfredo Del Mazo told *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday in a wide ranging interview. He said Mexico wanted to make use of Israeli advances in certain fields to aid the modernization of his country's industrial sector.

Del Mazo, who is on an official visit to Israel, mentioned solar energy as one area in which the two countries could cooperate. He said Mexico could sell steel for the solar energy project being constructed by Jerusalem-based Luz Industries Ltd. in California. Israeli know-how may also be used to establish a solar energy project in Mexico, he said.

Phosphates and the agro-chemical industry offer other avenues for cooperation, he said, but only in the coming days, after further talks, until it will be possible to determine the vialibility of such projects.

Del Mazo rejected Israeli claims that the large trade imbalance between the two countries was unfair. Israel purchased some $180 million worth of Mexican crude oil last year and had some $13m. in exports to Mexico. But Del Mazo said fuel should not be included in such calculations, because it has a special status. Mexico, he noted, purchased just $3m. worth of Israeli goods in 1983; there has been a constant increase in these imports.

In addition, Del Mazo said he would like to see Israel import a wider range of Mexican goods, especially manufactured goods.

Mexico may purchase 100,000 tons of phosphates from Israel, and a Mexican commercial bank could soon open an office in Israel to facilitate bilateral trade. A greater effort by the private sector of both countries would be called for, he said.

Mexico is one of the world's main oil producers, and has been seriously hurt by the recent slump in fuel prices. Del Mazo, however, was very sceptical about the possibility of large fluctuations in oil prices. He forsees a slight and gradual increase in prices, but not a sudden jump. By next year, he says, oil prices will be slightly above the $18 mark now more or less prevailing.

"Mexico is not a member of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, but we maintain consultations with members of that organization. We believe that we should hold consultations with producers and consumers of fuel," Del Mazo said. True, future currency movements, especially a drop in the value of the dollar could cause changes in fuel prices, but he added that in his opinion such further reduction in the value of the American currency is unlikely.

Mexico is included among those countries currently facing a large foreign debt problem, in common with Argentina, Peru and Brazil.

But Del Mazo says his country will pursue its own course in dealing with its creditors. Each country has its own problems, and each economy its own characteristics, he said. There is little point in trying to form a common front of debtor countries, against the creditor banks as has been proposed.

The minister said Mexico preferred the way of negotiations with its creditors. Recently, he noted, it had completed a rescheduling of its debts with the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the commercial banks. In return it received credits for $3.5 billion.

Del Mazo pointed out that Mexico is convinced that its policies will enhance investor confidence in its economic future.

Nisim Warns of Danger to 'Hard-won' Stability
TA120814 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 12 May 87 p 9

[Report by Dvora Getzler]

[Excerpt] Any increase in wages in the coming year will endanger the country's hard-won economic stability, Finance Minister Moshe Nisim told the Knesset yesterday in what amounted to a progress report-cum-forecast of economic policies.

Nisim pleaded with workers and manufacturers alike not to rock the economic boat and to restrain both wage and price demands if they wished to continue to benefit from this drop in inflation. Prices, he said, should in some instances be lowered.

The public, he urged, must be encouraged to save, and the government would move in this direction when the time came to redeem the "arrangement" bank shares in October. But the government would honour all its commitments in regard to the shares, Nisim said.

He hinted that the Treasury was giving consideration to the future control over the banks and indicated that proposals would soon be tabled before the cabinet.

He spoke of greater liberalization in the capital market as an aid to continued growth, and vowed that he would continue to withstand pressures to exceed budget limits on state spending. [passage omitted]

LIBYA

Al-Qadhdhafi Meets Revolution Committee Groups

LD150047 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2315 GMT 14 May 87

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution met groups from the international revolutionary committees today.

MAURITANIA

Algerian Minister Brings Bendjedid Note to Taya

LD142252 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 14 May 87

[Excerpt] Colonel Maaouya Ould Sid' Ahmed Taya, chairman of the CMSN and head of state, met this morning with Algerian Transport Minister Rachid Benyelles, who arrived in Nouakchott yesterday evening. After the audience, the Algerian minister told our correspondent that he had handed the head of state a message from President Chadli Bendjedid. [passage omitted]

MOROCCO

King Hassan Praises Armed Forces on Anniversary

LD141745 Rabat MAP in English 1211 GMT 14 May 87

[Text] Rabat, May 14 (MAP) — On the occasion of the 31st anniversary of the creation of the Royal Armed Forces (RAF), King Hassan II supreme chief and chief of the General Staff addressed officers, non-commissioned officers, and soldiers an order of the day wherein the sovereign highlights the prominent role played by the RAF in defending the Kingdom's sovereignty, independence, and freedom.

The monarch outlined in the order of the day, that since their inception 31 years ago, the Royal Armed Forces have "here as well as elsewhere, in Africa as well as in the Middle East, courageously and with self-denial defended legality, legitimacy and freedom."

The Royal Armed Forces, have always granted their assistance to those requesting it, the order of the day stated adding that their exploit of arms and the humanitarian actions they conducted are unforgettable.

"You have just concluded, at the cost of huge efforts, the edification of the sixth (defense) wall which ensures the total security of the Sahara and of our subjects who peacefully live there. But this wall, whatever its strategic importance, would be worthless without your strong determination to drive back all assaults, to oppose all intrusions and to defend under in [as received] any circumstance our territorial integrity and national unity," the sovereign said adding that the whole Moroccan people pays homage to the memory of the martyrs who fell on the battle field so that Morocco [could] live in peace, justice and dignity.

SUDAN

Al-Turabi: New Government Not To Include INF

JN141609 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1425 GMT 14 May 87

[Text] Khartoum, 14 May (SUNA) — Dr Hasan 'Abdallah al-Turabi, secretary general of the Islamic National Front (INF), has emphasized that the front will not be represented in the new government that will be formed. However, he added, the front is ready to participate with the government in formulating national policies for the state.

In comments to the press today, Dr al-Turabi said the front's mere participation in the new government on the basis of weak foundations [words indistinct] and would further confuse the government's performance. Al-Turabi said that the government's collapse only a year after its formation is evidence that the democratic system is plagued by a real crisis. He added that the new government must benefit from this experience and called for changing the foundations on which the government was formed. He said the foundations should be based on a pact that specifies the framework for government policies. In addition, he asked for a change in the rules according to which ministries are formed and ministers chosen, and an alteration in the course pursued by the government in its performance [words indistinct]

Dr Hasan 'Abdallah al-Turabi warned against prolonging the period preceding the formation of the new government, noting that this would have a negative impact. He added: Sudan is suffering from security problems [words indistinct]. He said: Any delay in forming the new government will hinder the development of our political and economic relations with other countries, as those states which provide Sudan with assistance will be reluctant to do so in such a situation. He said the front is not happy about the dilemma facing the government and the two parties which make up the coalition government [words indistinct]. Al-Turabi referred to the government's role and said that in the past period it ignored public opinion. [words indistinct]

It should be recalled that Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has asked the State Council to accept the release of his ministers from their posts, with the understanding that a new government will be formed [words indistinct]

Governor Confirms Presence of Egyptian Troops

JN141649 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1420 GMT 14 May 87

[Text] Khartoum, 14 May (SUNA) — Today's edition of the newspaper *Al-Ayyam* quotes Muhammad 'Uthman Karrar, governor of the Eastern Region, as confirming the presence of Egyptian forces on Sudanese soil. He also said these troops are stationed at 12 locations [words indistinct]. He added that these forces came into Sudan in accordance with an agreement concluded between the Governments of Sudan and Egypt for purely military purposes.

On another level, Karrar said Ethiopia violated our eastern borders and explained that military arrangements were made to prevent any aggression, which constitutes a threat to our [word

indistinct]. Karrar emphasized that there are no armed Eritrean movements using Sudan as a springboard. He added that Sudan would never allow such a thing. He indicated that the Eritreans are politically active in Sudan and that Sudan, as a democratic state, has given them the freedom to present their political cause.

Attack on Hercules Transport Plane Confirmed

JN141657 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1415 GMT 14 May 87

[Text] Khartoum, 14 May (SUNA) — A Hercules military plane carrying a number of troops was hit [word indistinct] while it was heading for Waw in the Bahr al-Ghazal Region. The plane's tail was hit by a shell as it was preparing to land at Waw Airport. The aircraft managed to land safely at the airport; none of those aboard were wounded.

In a statement to the independent newspaper *Al-Ayyam*, Major General Fadlallah Burmah Nasir, minister of state for defense said the plane was hit by a shell fired by the rebels and added that the hit was minor. Burmah said the aircraft was expected to return to Khartoum today after the completion of maintenance work. He emphasized that the work performed on the plane will make it serviceable once more.

Al-Mahdi: Damage 'Only Slight'

JN141758 Khartoum SUNA in English 1728 GMT 14 May 87

[Text] Khartoum, May 14 (SUNA) — Prime minister and minister of defence, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi announced a military plane was shot by small weapon when landing in Waw Airport in the southern region the last two days but damages were only slight. [sentence as received]

In a statement delivered here today Mr al-Sadiq al-Mahdi said that the plane is being examined so as to know volume of damages, in addition data is being collected for the same purpose.

Al-Mirghani Meets Army Chief; South Discussed

JN131627 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1440 GMT 13 May 87

[Text] Khartoum, 13 May (SUNA) — State Council Chairman Ahmad al-Mirghani met today with General Fawzi Ahmad al-Fadil, commander in chief of the Armed Forces.

In a statement to SUNA, Gen Fawzi said he briefed Al-Mirghani on the state of the Armed Forces, their performance, and their determination to play their role seriously, resolutely, and in the best possible way. He also brought him up to date on the operations in southern Sudan and emphasized to Chairmanal-Mirghani that rebel activity has subsided. He said current operations have reduced the rebels to gangs and highway robbers, added that the Armed Forces have provided security for all roads leading to southern provinces.

The commander in chief of the Armed Forces said he told the State Council chairman that Ethiopia supports John Garang's movement, especially in the areas bordering the Upper Nile and the Al-Damazin military area.

Al-Mirghani praised the Armed Forces and the troops' readiness to display bravery and manliness in these difficult circumstances.

SPLA Forces Stage Two Attacks in South 4-5 May

EA142001 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1400 GMT 14 May 87

[Excerpt] SPLA forces of Mvolo task force under direct command of First Lieutenant Chaniyong Yau and overall command of Lieutenant Colonel Bona Bang Dhol, zonal commander for lakes, conducted two surprising raids on the enemy position at Ieri, in southern Sudan on 4 and 5 May, respectively.

In the first raid, the enemy suffered heavy casualties in men and widespread damage in material. The correspondent says that two enemy trenches were destroyed and many houses were burned down. In the second raid, which took place on the 5 May, 14 enemy soldiers were killed and several others wounded in addition to one antiaircraft gun of the enemy, which was destroyed. [passage omitted]

TUNISIA

Politburo Affirms Stand Against Khomeyni 'Bands'

LD141832 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 May 87

[Excerpt] The Politburo met yesterday afternoon at the Casbah party house under the chairmanship of Party Secretary General Rachid Sfar for a review of the general situation in the country. It noted the Tunisian people's resolute stand behind the supreme combatant, President Habib Bourguiba, to defend the national gains and resist Khomeyni's lackey bands. The Politburo addressed greetings of admiration and respect to the fighters and the security forces for their self-denial in preserving order and protecting the gains of Bourguibian Tunisia. [passage omitted]

ETHIOPIA

Information Minister Back From East African Tour

EA141943 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 0930 GMT 14 May 87

[Text] A delegation led by Comrade Felleke Gedle-Giorgis, WPE Central Committee member and minister of information and national guidance, returned to Addis Ababa today. The group delivered messages from our comrade revolutionary leader to three East African heads of state, and discussed bilateral issues as well. The delegation conveyed the comrade secretary general's message to Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi; President Hassan Gouled Aptidon, leader of the Republic of Djibouti; and President Siad Barre of the Republic of Somalia.

In an arrival statement at Bole International Airport, Comrade Felleke said the leaders of the three states showed great respect and pleasure on receiving the message from Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, secretary general of the WPE Central Committee, PMAC chairman, and commander in chief of the revolutionary Armed Forces.

KENYA

President Moi Tours District, Delivers Speech

EA142230 Nairobi KNA in English 1800 GMT 14 May 87

[Excerpts] [no dateline as received] HE, President Daniel arap Moi, today instructed the National Cereals and Produce Board to open up a storage facility for maize in Lodwar within the next one week. He said that continued lack of these facilities was causing great inconveniences to citizens in Turkana District. The president added the board's store at Lodwar should be stocked with maize to save people from traveling long distances in search of foodstuffs. He further told the Kenya National Trading Corporation to put up a store in the town to minimize transportation costs of goods from Kitale, because this led to exploitation of citizens by traders. President Moi was addressing thousands of citizens at Lodwar during a tour of the district.

He commended the people of the district for the great strides they had made in the fields of education, agriculture and commerce and their readiness to maintain peace and stability in the district. He pointed out that peace and stability was a prerequisite to national development, noting that in the past the district has had security problems due to cattle rustling by neighboring tribes across the borders. The president further urged citizens to take a keen interest in the education of their [words indistinct] up their rightful place in national development.

The president affirmed the government's commitment to maintain peace and security in the district and particularly along the border with Sudan. He added that it was the government's commitment to provide protection of life and property of Kenyans so that they can in turn concentrate their efforts to development and improvement of their welfare. [passage omitted]

Touching on national unity, President Moi said Kenyans should treat each other as equals and with fairness. However, he noted that some foreign missionaries were tainting Kenya's good image overseas by sending out pictures that gave the wrong and often distorted image of our country and the people. He said that some of these missionaries took pictures of unsuspecting citizens in order to solicit foreign funds in the pretext that such funds were for missionary work. The president, however, said that the government is going to give drugs to missionary hospitals in Turkana and also continue to give grants to mission hospitals in addition to providing more medical facilities. [passage omitted]

Paper on Al-Qadhdhafi's Manipulation of 'Misfits'

EA141327 Nairobi THE STANDARD in English 14 May 87 p 6

[Editorial article: "The Rebels Without a Cause"]

[Text] The revelation in *The Standard* editions of yesterday and today on Libyan training of Kenyan rebels should not be taken lightly.

In the first place Kenyans have got the right to know of the machinations against them by outsiders. Secondly, we need to warn the guilty parties of the folly of their actions. The Kenyan society, as it is today does not warrant the being or existence of rebels. That ended with the departure of colonialists. The question we should now ask ourselves is: Who are these people calling themselves rebels?

In general terms rebels are people fighting for a cause against an unjust society. Those masquerading as Kenyan rebels are well known to Kenyans as people without a legitimate cause. As Foreign Minister Elijah Mwangale has been trying to explain in the Scandinavian countries, these people who claim to be fighting for a cause are nothing but people with some criminal charges to answer to in their home country.

It is unfortunate that some Western countries, with democratic traditions, have given help to people who are the very antithesis of the democratic ideals. A democratic society is one that is open, just, and offers all its members equal opportunities. This is the definition of the Kenyan society today under the leadership of President Daniel arap Moi. Kenya has gone a long way to establish itself as a leading country in Africa, or the third world, where democratic ideals are scrupulously adhered to and basic human rights respected.

Even the detractors and those envious of Kenya's progress and her respect for human rights admit that the country is free of the evils that befall the dozens of other countries.

Then why the rebels? The obvious answer is that it is not a rebellion for Kenyan interests. This leads us to understand the collusion between Libya and the neighbouring country associated with the Libyan plan. The Libyan regime has given itself the role of leading rebellions all over the world. It is only Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the Tripoli colonel, who knows for what cause.

The world knows that Al-Qadhdhafi is not seeking to destabilise the world for the cause of liberating the Arab occupied lands

from Israel. He is not doing it for the Libyan people. It is for satanical purposes and to cover up for loss of human rights in his country and those of his allies.

The world has many misfits and it would be a miracle that Kenya does not have a share of this. It is these misfits who are now being rounded up to serve the satanical and diabolical interests of Al-Qadhdhafi. Not withstanding that, Kenyans should now be more vigilant and rally with their KANU government to give a sound rebuff to these people.

Kenyans today are a happy people for a reason. It is this reason that these people want to wipe out. Kenyans should not be detracted. They should steer along the same nyayo [footprints] path and expose the agents of evils wherever they are. The democratic world should understand Kenya and now know why it is being fought against by the world's acclaimed evil-doers and mischief-makers.

UGANDA

'Rebels' Reportedly Capture 2,000 NRA Soldiers

EA150948 Nairobi THE STANDARD in English 15 May 87 p 1

[*Standard* reporter article: "2,000 NRA Troops Captured — Claim"]

[Text] Ugandan rebels, fighting to overthrow President Yoweri Museveni's government, have captured an estimated 2,000 government soldiers, it was reported yesterday. The 2,000 NRA [National Resistance Army] soldiers were captured in the northern region of Uganda, where they are being held as POWs.

Confirming this to *The Standard*, the London-based deputy chairman of Uganda Freedom Movement (UFM), Mr Francis Bwengye, added that a number of NRA soldiers had meanwhile deserted, and no one seems to know where they have gone. However, the soldiers being held were pleading to be allowed to join the opposition, he said, adding that the morale of NRA soldiers has been very low because of the humiliation they have received in the north.

Mr Bwengye contended that current trends in which the opposition is making great strides in the armed struggle against Museveni, it will be a miracle if he (Museveni) survives the next 6 months in power. He added: If he survives, he will be holding on to a very small part of the country.

The opposition, he said, is growing big — in fact the second in command of the NRA Northern Brigade took off to Frankfurt, West Germany, where he is undergoing medical treatment for the wounds he sustained. He was regarded as the most gallant fighter.

Mr Bwengye, who was once the secretary general of Uganda's Democratic Party (DP), felt that DP was wasting its time with Museveni's government. They are being suppressed. They paid a very big price in the struggle for liberation and in return they have been given minor positions, he said.

He claimed some 20,000 Ugandans were being detained in concentration camps, accused of being antigovernment. The camps are in Kiburara and Simba Barracks near Mbarara, Port Portal and at Kirinya Prison in Jinja. He said his movement believed that all shades of opinion must be brought together on a roundtable and agree to work together.

Meanwhile, Uganda has disclosed plans to beef up its Army to crush the persistent guerrilla rebellion in the north and east of the country. Museveni has told recruits at Mbarara Barracks the number of troops in the NRA would be increased, Radio Uganda reported. He did not say how big the increase would be. Museveni said the NRA had embarked on a drive to recruit more soldiers from northern and eastern Uganda to correct ethnic imbalances in the Army, it added.

Exiles Form New Opposition Group in Kenya

EA142242 Dar es Salaam External Service in English 1600 GMT 14 May 87

[Text] Nairobi — Ugandan exiles based in Kenya have formed a new movement opposed to the government of President Yoweri Museveni. Ugandan exile sources said today that a meeting in a Nairobi suburb last Sunday nominated two ministers in the government of the deposed president, Dr Milton Obote, as senior officers in the movement which calls itself the Uganda People's Front. The minister of state for defense under Dr Obote, Mr Peter Otai, is the interim chairman. The secretary general is the former commerce minister, Mr Aliro Omara. The sources quoted Mr Otai as having told the meeting that the front's aim was to send a guerrilla force into the Ugandan bush to fight what he called Mr Museveni's dictatorship.

Front Leader Denies Opposing NRM Government

EA141239 Dakar PANA in English 0900 GMT 14 May 87

[Text] Kampala, 14 May (UNA/PANA) — The leadership of the Uganda National Rescue Front (UNRF), a fighting group that [waged] a guerrilla war against the government of deposed Ugandan President Milton Obote, has refuted recent press reports to the effect that members of the group had joined rebels in the north to fight the National Resistance Movement (NRM) government. Brig Moses Ali, now the minister of tourism and wildlife, and chairman of UNRF, dismissed such press reports as "malicious, baseless and bogus to an extent that it was calculated to tarnish my image."

At a press conference he held in his Kampala office on Tuesday, Brig Ali pointed out that this negative propaganda was aimed [words indistinct] government which the UNRF is part and parcel. He reassured Ugandans that his organization was fully committed to protecting the hard-won peace currently prevailing in the country, and appealed to those still fighting to join hands with the government and help build the country. Ali stated that he surrendered his forces and arms to the NRM government at a ceremony held last December because "the UNRF took arms with a clear purpose: to fight for survival and to throw out the fascist regime of Milton Obote."

BURKINA FASO

Sankara Receives Ethiopian Culture Minister

AB142119 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 14 May 87

[Text] The consolidation of the Ethiopian and Burkinabe revolutions was at the center of discussions between the president of Burkina Faso and Ethiopian Culture Minister Comrade Girma Yilma. During the meeting, Comrade Yilma, who is also a member of the WPE Central Committee, delivered a message to President Sankara from his Ethiopian counterpart, Lieutenant Colonel Mengistu Haile Mariam. At the end of the session, the Ethiopian envoy briefed reporters on the situation in the Horn of Africa, as well as on the problems of Chad and Western Sahara.

Concerning the first point, Comrade Girma Yilma pointed out that there are high hopes for the talks between Addis Ababa and Mogadishu. As for Chad and Western Sahara, he called on all parties to the conflict to comply with OAU resolutions so as to restore peace to that part of the continent.

GAMBIA

AFP Reports New Cabinet Announced 13 May

AB131933 Paris AFP in French 1851 GMT 13 May 87

[Text] Banjul, 13 May (AFP) — Here is the composition of the new government of The Gambia, announced today in Banjul:

President of the republic Sir Dawda Jawara
Vice president and minister
of national education, youth,
sports, and culture Bakary Darbo

Minister of:

Foreign affairs Umar Sey (new)
Finance Sherif Sisay (unchanged)
Attorney general (justice) Assan Jallow
Agriculture Seku Sabally
Interior Lamine Kiti Jabang
(former foreign minister)
Information and tourism Lamin Keba Saho (new)
Water resources Omar Amadou Jallow
(unchanged)
Local government and lands Landing Jallow Sonko
(formerly information and
tourism)
Planning and economic affairs Memba Jatta (new)
Health and social welfare Louise Nje (formerly at
the Education Ministry)
Public works and telecommunications Mamadou Cadi Cham
(new)

GHANA

Radio Criticizes Anti-PANA Campaign, BBC

AB141613 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 14 May 87

[Hamadu Chodi commentary]

[Text] The developments and, indeed, the transformations that go on in the developing countries are hardly noticed, while events that are insignificant or in no way contribute to the progress of these nations get wide coverage from the Western media. It is against this background that we welcome the appeal by the Ethiopian minister of information and national guidance, Mr Felleke Gedle-Giorgis, that African countries should provide financial and material support to the *Pan-African News Agency* [PANA] to enable it to compete effectively with other international news agencies and thereby counteract the distorted image of Africa in the foreign media.

African countries receive Western mass media attention only when there are starvation, coups, rebellions, and disasters. By and large, the great majority of countries are reduced to passive recipients of information which is disseminated from few centers and this situation perpetuates the colonial era of dependence and domination. This explains why it is ridiculous to learn that some major Western news agencies have launched a credibility campaign against PANA, claiming falsely that its news items are officially censored releases, as to warrant its director general, Mr Mpassi-Muba, to travel to Paris to refute such allegations.

But a careful study of the situation shows that the Western media are, rather, arms of government and propagandist agents for their governments. There are disclosures that the CIA has already infiltrated some American news media. In Britain, the secret vetting of the staff of the BBC by the British intelligence, MI5, before their appointment, is well known. The MI5 even has offices within the BBC.

It is therefore ridiculous for the Western media to say that PANA news items are government-censored releases. Worse things are done in the West. The British Government stopping BBC from telecasting certain items is no secret but PANA, as a multinational institution, does not take instructions from any African government. It deals with policy matters, with the OAU, and not with individual African nations. The stories that it carries, therefore, cannot be government-censored releases.

PANA, as a young organization, has had a good beginning and it is doing its best within certain constraints. It is laudable that PANA is making efforts to generate funds to meet its operations as disclosed by its director general when he visited Ghana recently. However, African countries may need to be reminded that the rapid and constant dissemination of objective and reliable information is not merely a necessity of life but one of the sources of better life.

PANA services stand to promote better cooperation and understanding among African countries, project African views, and to correct the disfigured picture of Africa resulting from the partial

and negative information published in the foreign media. The task is Herculean but not insurmountable.

Government Delegation Leaves for Bulgaria
AB131802 Accra Domestic Service in English
0700 GMT 13 May 87

[Text] A two-man government delegation led by the political counselor of CDR's [Committees for the Defense of the Revolution], Lieutenant Colonel J.Y. Assassie, has left Accra for Sofia to attend the 10th Congress of the Fatherland Front of Bulgaria. The visit is at the invitation of the front, which is the revolutionary organ of the Bulgarian Government. Colonel Assassie told newsmen before departure that the visit demonstrates the fraternal links existing between the Fatherland Front and the CDR's. He recalled that a visit by a CDR delegation to Bulgaria last year concretized an agreement of cooperation between the two revolutionary organs. Col Assassie said following that agreement, about 30 cadres are studying in the cadre training school in Bulgaria, while other Ghanaians are undertaking various courses in the state university.

The political counselor praised the Bulgarian ambassador to Ghana, Kostadin Gyaurov, for his invaluable efforts in sustaining Ghana-Bulgaria cooperation. On the eighth anniversary celebrations of the 4 June uprising, Col Assassie charged all cadres to rededicate themselves to the activities marking the occasion.

The delegation, which will be away for 10 days, includes Warrant Officer Class Two Issa Salifu, Western Regional organizing assistant of CDR's.

IVORY COAST

French Foreign Trade Official Arrives for Talks
AB142156 Abidjan Domestic Service in French
1930 GMT 14 May 87

[Excerpt] At the invitation of the Ivorian Government, Michel Noir, minister delegate to the French minister of economy, finance, and privatization in charge of foreign trade, arrived in Abidjan this afternoon for a 4-day official visit to Ivory Coast. The French minister was welcomed on arrival by his Ivorian counterpart, Nichola Kouandi Angba, and by the French ambassador to Ivory Coast, Michel Dupuch.

During his stay, Michel Noir will meet with several Ivorian officials. [passage omitted]

MALI

Traore Receives Algerian Envoy, Bendjedid Message
AB141855 Bamako Domestic Service in French
1500 GMT 14 May 87

[Text] General Moussa Traore, secretary general of the Democratic Union of Malian People, received Mr Abdelghani, Algerian minister of state for the Presidency and member of the FLN, in audience this afternoon. Mr Abdelghani brought a message from President Chadli Bendjedid to President Moussa Traore. Their discussions centered on the exemplary South-South relations between our two friendly states and ways of strengthening and further diversifying them for the welfare of our brotherly peoples.

International issues were discussed, with emphasis on the Palestine National Council session in Algiers and the Oudjah meeting between President Chadli Bendjedid and King Hassan II at the initiative of King Fahd of Saudi Arabia. Mr Abdelghani stressed the Algerian people's readiness and their unceasing efforts to resolve any disputes through negotiations, to establish a climate of peace and security in the Maghreb subregion, and to safeguard the unity of the Arab world.

The head of state, Gen Moussa Traore, conveyed the fraternal gratitude of the Malian people to the Algerian people, and to their party and government, for the hospitality and support that enabled the Palestine National Council session to be held in a climate of reconciliation. It is by resolving internal differences and acting in unity and solidarity that the new leadership will win victories in the struggle for the liberation of the Palestinian people, President Moussa Traore added. This is what Mr Abdelghani told Oumar Sangare after his audience:

[Begin recording] [Abdelghani] We discussed the message that I brought to President Moussa Traore and developments in the subregion. There is a long-standing tradition between our two countries, especially between our two heads of state, of briefing one another on events. This is done either by sending a special envoy or through ambassadors. It is within this framework that the president sent me to brief President Moussa Traore on the recent tripartite meeting which took place on the border between our country and Morocco, our neighbor. As you know, President Bendjedid met with King Hassan II and King Fahd. They discussed the decolonization of the SDAR. A war is being waged on the borders. We also discussed the status of cooperation and bilateral relations.

[Sangare] Your Excellency, could you, as briefly as possible, talk to us about the outcome of this tripartite meeting?

[Abdelghani] This meeting is part of my country's efforts to restore peace and security to the region. [Words indistinct] brought about a conflict of decolonization. The relevant OAU and UN resolutions, which call for a referendum and negotiations for a cease-fire, are seemingly being ignored by one of the two sides in this war of decolonization. Algeria, therefore, is making efforts, as it did in the past, to bring the two parties together around a negotiating table and to bring about peace in the region. So, this was the purpose of the tripartite meeting during which two heads of state tried to persuade the third, Morocco, to encourage it to opt for peace instead of a military solution to the conflict. We envisage dialogue instead of weapons being used to resolve this conflict. These are the efforts currently being made.

[Sangare] Your Excellency, preparations for negotiations between the Chadian factions are under way in Algeria. Can you tell us when this meeting will take place?

[Abdelghani] You know, this is not the first time that the kind of meeting you are talking about has taken place; such meetings are going on now and will continue. With the goodwill of all, and with Mali's contribution to that end, we hope things will work out well for the Chadian people. [end recording]

The discussions were held in the presence of Sekou Minandiou Traore, external relations secretary of the Central Executive Bureau; Modibo Keita, minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation; Dr Ngollo Traore, permanent under secretary at the president's office; Tidjane Guissey, diplomatic adviser; and Tchona Mathieu Kone, press adviser.

SFRY Education Official Meets Prime Minister
AB131221 Bamako Domestic Service in French
0700 GMT 12 May 87

[Text] The prime minister, Prof Mamadou Dembele, yesterday received the SFRY minister of national education, [as heard] Franci Pivec, who is on an official visit to Mali. During their talks, both men fully examined bilateral relations in the field of professional training, culture, and education.

Prime Minister Prof Mamadou Dembele confirmed the desire of the Malian party and government to consolidate the diverse ties existing between our two countries, which were established at the initiative of President Tito, who certainly gave a great impetus to the Nonaligned Movement and to cooperative relations between Mali and the SFRY.

For his part, Franci Pivec reasserted the SFRY Government's desire to follow President Tito's ideas on which the SFRY's policies are based. The SFRY education minister also expressed satisfaction with the warm bonds between the two countries. He expressed his hope that regular meetings would be held at all levels between Malian and SFRY officials.

Meets Education Officials
AB131540 Bamako Domestic Service in French
0700 GMT 13 May 87

[Text] A working session was held yesterday at the Ministry of Education between the Yugoslav minister of education [as heard] and his Malian counterpart, Oumar Issaka Bah. Leaders of the Teachers' Union and allied services of the Ministry of Education also took part.

In his address, Malian Minister Issaka Bah reviewed some of the principles of Malian foreign policy, which is based on friendship, brotherhood, honoring commitments, and membership in the Nonaligned Movement.

The minister then reviewed the objectives of the Malian educational system, and secretaries of the Education Ministry and allied services presented reports on the services within their fields.

Following these reports, the minister of national education displayed the organizational structure of the system, highlighting its decentralized nature and its open-door policy to other educational systems.

In his reply, the Yugoslav minister of education spoke of his country's experience, pointing out some similarities between the two educational systems. The two sides reviewed the common points of interest that may serve as a new basis for cooperation in education.

The Yugoslav minister was later received by the minister of territorial administration and grassroots development [interior], and by the minister of sports, arts, and culture.

NIGER

Government Announces Certain Price, Tax Cuts
AB142109 Niamey Domestic Service in French
1200 GMT 14 May 87

[Text] The cabinet met at 0930 today, 14 May, 1987, at the usual place. The meeting was chaired by His Excellency General Seyni Kountche, chairman of the Supreme Military Council [CMS], head of state, and cabinet chairman.

The cabinet examined and adopted a bill on tax relief. As part of the government's measures to revamp the economy, the bill, which will affect all households, will stimulate consumption and investment. It provides for a 30 percent cut in the following rates, duties, and taxes: state dues, value added tax, and taxes on alcoholic beverages, cigarettes, and other tobacco products.

Specifically, effective Monday, 18 May, 1987, the price of about 3,000 products will be substantially cut. For example, the price of a liter of regular gasoline will be reduced from 255 CFA francs to 226 CFA francs and a liter of premium from 280 to 254 francs. The price of a carton of concentrated tomato puree falls from 11,000 francs to 10,565 francs; a box of soap from 3,426 francs to 3,250 francs; noodles from 4,800 francs to 4,440 francs. The price of a drum of oil will fall from 71,761 francs to 66,160 francs. The price of tourist vehicles will be reduced from 5,110,660 francs to 4,401,292 francs.

With these measures, the government intends to ensure the citizens of Niger a higher standard of living in this holy month of Ramadan. It will therefore scrupulously ensure that the aims of these steps will be achieved. To this end, the government calls on businessmen to make these measures effective by following them up with corresponding price cuts and appeals to consumers to contribute fully to their implementation.

The agenda concluded, the head of state declared the session closed.

SIERRA LEONE

Soviet, ROK Fishing Vessels Seized Off Coast

AB141808 Paris AFP in French 1730 GMT 14 May 87

[Text] Freetown, 14 May (AFP) — A Soviet fishing ship and an ROK fishing vessel were seized by the Sierra Leonean authorities while fishing illegally in the country's territorial waters. This was learned from official sources in Freetown today. According to a spokesman for the Sierra Leonean Defense Ministry, the two vessels were seized last week near Banana Island, an area well known for its rich fishing waters.

The Soviet ship, *Argonaut*, whose fishing license had expired, was caught by a Chinese patrol boat which, although not yet acquired by Sierra Leone, was taking part in exercises in the area. The ROK vessel, which was flying a Venezuelan flag, was involved in the illegal transshipment of cargo. If found guilty, the two captains risk a fine of $1 million (nearly Fr 6 million) and the confiscation of their catch.

ANGOLA

UNITA Overruns Uige Town; 33 MPLA Troops Killed

MB140633 (Clandestine) KUP in English to Southern and Central Africa 0600 GMT 14 May 87

[Text] [No dateline as received] — 33 MPLA troops were killed and a radio operator along with his documents captured Tuesday [12 May] morning when UNITA forces overran Maquela do Zombo — an outpost in Uige Province, where MPLA President Eduardo dos Santos declared at a rally, less than 24 hours earlier, that UNITA had been destroyed in the north.

According to the special chief of staff communique 46 Soviet-made AK-47 rifles, two communication radios — type Racal, two cannons 106 mm, and one cannon 75 mm were also seized.

The communique adds that dozens of panic-stricken FAPLA soldiers abandoned the town to take refuge at Nearby Kuimba and Quibocolo municipalities.

On its part UNITA says it suffered no casualties.

Government Denies Claim

MB141525 Dakar PANA in English 1511 GMT 14 May 87

[Text] Uige (Angola), 14 May (ANGOP/PANA) — South African-backed UNITA bandits have attacked the area of Maquela do Zombo municipality, in Angola's northern province of Uige. The Tuesday [12 May] attack, which took place just 20 kilometers from the border with Zaire, was repulsed by Angolan troops. Military sources in the province described the attack as [word indistinct] and desperate.

UNITA Communique Claims Combat Successes

MB150806 (Clandestine) KUP in French to Southern and Central Africa 0605 GMT 15 May 87

[Text] Free Land of Angola, 15 May (KUP) — The latest war communique issued by the FALA chief of staff in Jamba on Tuesday [12 May] says that 84 weapons of various types, along with 41 bombs were captured by UNITA forces in attacks on enemy positions between 5 and 10 May in the Luanda, Uige, Cuanza Norte, Malanje, and Moxico Provinces.

The communique adds that two radio transmitters were captured and that a tank and nine military vehicles were destroyed.

The communique also notes that UNITA forces killed 79 MPLA soldiers and captured 1 in the fighting, and that they lost 3 dead and 9 wounded.

NAMIBIA

Cabinet Wants To Draft Own Constitution

MB131358 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1336 GMT 13 May 87

[Text] Windhoek, May 13, SAPA — The SWA/Namibian transitional cabinet decided to request the South African state president, Mr P.W. Botha, to allow the people of the territory to decide for themselves on a new constitutional dispensation, SWABC Radio News reported in Windhoek today.

A constitution so decided would be implemented in cooperation with the South African Government, the chairman of the Transitional Cabinet, Mr David Bezuidenhout, said in a statement.

The views of the SWA/Namibian Government concerning a constitution for the territory would be conveyed to Mr Botha in discussions with the Transitional Cabinet arranged in South Africa for May 22.

Mr Bezuidenhout said a draft constitution by the SWA/Namibian Constitutional Council [CC] had to be submitted to the Transitional Cabinet on June 12. If the parties in the CC were unable to reach consensus on a draft constitution, the subject would be decided on a majority vote. Parties not represented in the CC were being invited to submit their proposals for a future constitution, he added.

SOUTH AFRICA

'Sweeping' Clampdown Expected in Election's Wake

MB141714 Johannesburg THE STAR in English 14 May 87 p 1

[By David Braun, political correspondent]

[Text] Cape Town — A sweeping security clampdown on trade unions, universities, organisations using foreign funds for domestic political purposes and "alternative media" publications is expected after the National Party's overwhelming victory in last week's election.

Government sources have confirmed that a decision has already been taken to reformulate the emergency regulations recently overturned by the courts "with the loopholes plugged" even before appeals against these rulings have been heard.

According to the sources, the Government is determined to implement its mandate for strict security measures as strongly as possible.

Almost the first announcement President P.W. Botha made on accepting the National Party's mandate after the election was that action would be taken to stop extra-parliamentary organisations using foreign funds for political purposes.

It is possible that, among the organisations which will be affected by this, will be Dr van Zyl Slabbert's Institute for Democratic

Alternatives for South Africa (Idasa) which receives substantial foreign funding.

The minister in the State President's Office entrusted with administration, Mr Alwyn Schlebusch, announced during the election campaign that legislation to deal with trade union strikes was pending.

It has not clear whether this legislation will envisage tougher action against unions.

Government sources this week said there was great concern about the "politicisation" of trade unions and the use of labour organisations for political purposes.

In this regard there is much speculation in Cape Town, particularly about the future of COSATU.

Sources have also indicated that the Government has been calling in university principals to tell them to restore discipline on their campuses or be faced with financial penalties. This could entail a reduction in State subsidies which finance up to 70 percent of the costs of student tuition.

There is anger across parliamentary lines at what is perceived to be a selective application of freedom of speech on certain campuses and the Government is expected to capitalise on this.

"Alternative media" publications, the sources say, are to be more strictly controlled while emergency regulations relating to the media will be tightened generally.

There have been hints of tougher action against foreign media representatives, most likely in the form of not renewing work permits when they expire.

President Botha may give broad details of the Government's intentions when he opens Parliament next Tuesday [19 May].

U.S. Journalist Expelled

MB150919 Umtata Capital Radio in English
0900 GMT 15 May 87

[Text] With fears of a looming security clampdown, another foreign journalist has been ordered to leave South Africa. American journalist Steve Mufson, who works for *Business Week*, is the third journalist in 2 days to be expelled from the country.

Mr Mufson says he received a telephone call from the Department of Home Affairs this morning telling him his application for renewal of his work permit has been rejected.

Only yesterday two British journalists, the BBC's Michael Buerk and Peter Sharp from ITN [Independent Television News], were told the same thing.

No official reasons have been given for the three expulsions, which bring to eight the number of resident foreign correspondents ordered to leave South Africa in a year. But analysts say it is an attempt by Pretoria to cover up an expected clampdown.

Mr Mufson has been based in Johannesburg for 2 years and he says he will return to the United States.

Blast Damages White Johannesburg High School

MB140658 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0658 GMT 14 May 87

[Text] Johannesburg May 14 SAPA — A powerful blast, believed to have been caused by a limpet mine, extensively damaged the office block of the John Orr Technical High School in Johannesburg last night, the Bureau for Information said.

SABC radio news reports police have launched an intensive investigation into the blast, believed to be the first bomb attack on a white school.

No-one was injured in the explosion which occurred at about 11.15pm.

The blast caused considerable damage to the eastern wing of the administration block, a bureau spokesman said.

Security police and bomb experts are investigating and the area was cordoned off this morning.

Blast Not Terror-Related

MB140800 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0759 GMT 14 May 87

[Excerpt] Pretoria May 14 SAPA — Commercial explosives were used in a blast which shook the John Orr Technical High School in Johannesburg last night.

The police public relations directorate said in Pretoria there was "absolutely no reason to regard this incident as an act of terrorism."

A safety fuse found at the scene indicated the explosion was caused by commercial explosives.

The Bureau for Information released details earlier when it was suspected that the blast had been caused by a limpet mine, but subsequent investigations had shown that this was not the case, police said.

Asked whether it was possible that terrorists had used commercial explosives to set off the charge, police said they were not prepared to speculate on the matter. [passage omitted]

Independents Promise To Maintain Momentum

MB131804 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1750 GMT 13 May 87

[SAPA Press Release Wire Service]

[Text] Statement from the three independents, Wynand Malan, MP, Dr Esther Lategan, and Dr Denis Worrall.

"The movement which was begun by the three independent candidates in the election on May 6 1987 will continue.

"At a number of meetings today, a variety of principal supporters were consulted.

"As a consequence, it was decided that Dr Denis Worrall, Dr Esther Lategan and Mr Wynand Malan, MP, would invite people from throughout South African society to serve on an informal continuity committee to mobilise support for an independent movement that would provide a means of political expression for all who seek a peaceful, negotiated future for a new South Africa.

"During the election campaign it became clear that the spirit which emerged in Randburg, Helderberg, and Stellenbosch, reflects a nation wide yearning — far beyond the three constituencies — for a fresh approach and new processes to deal with South Africa's pressing political problems.

"This momentum will be maintained by the independent movement.

"This non-racial movement will include all South Africans who are prepared to subscribe to and promote its aims.

"Rejecting all foreign interference and violence the movement will pursue its aims by all lawful means.

"This includes participation in the present parliamentary system and the initiation of and participation in negotiation, contact and bridge-building between all South Africa's people."

Interested persons are invited to contact the following:

P.O. Box 2075 Randburg, 2125, Telephone 011 787 0323; or

P.O. Box 1707 Somerset West 7130, Telephone 024 513493 or 024 513495; or

P.O. Box 3117 Coetzenburg 7602, Tel 02231, 73045.

Commentary Foresees Continued Economic Growth

MB150545 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 15 May 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] Last week, the House of Assembly electorate gave its judgement. This week, the stock market delivered its verdict on that judgement. Its verdict saw the industrial index on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange advance to record levels and the overall index rise to within a few points of its all-time peak.

This vote of confidence in the basic strength of the national economy by such an important institution is supported by a number of other favorable indicators. Assocom's [Association of Chambers of Commerce] business confidence indicator rose last month for the fourth consecutive month: and this week Assocom, although qualifying what it termed cautious optimism on economic prospects, said that a 3-percent growth rate remained within reach by the end of the year. Authoritative predictions are that a significant decline in the inflate rate lies ahead.

Earlier this month, retailers predicted the first real growth in the retail sector for 2 years, while there is reported to be a higher level of confidence in the building industry. Public sector spending on construction is expected to rise from 7.4 billion rand last year to 8.1 billion rand this year. The Mossel Bay project, the Lesotho highlands hydroelectric scheme, and new mining ventures are among other projects that will, in due course, stimulate the economy.

Despite sanctions, exports rose and imports declined in the first quarter of this year, resulting in the trade balance improving from 2.47 billion rand in the first 3 months of last year to 3.46 billion rand in the comparable period this year.

The price of gold, which dominates South Africa's exports, has surged to its highest level in more than 4 years, and it is forecast that gold will make further gains. The rand is holding steady on the foreign currency markets.

A sound and growing economy is one leg of the platform on which effective political reform can be built. Another leg is internal stability: and a stronger economy will promote stability and reform. As confidence in the short-term future of the economy mounts, so can South Africans have greater confidence in the broader, long-term national issues that will shape the future of their country.

Radio Says Sanctions, Sullivan Code 'Provocative'

MB140522 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 14 May 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] Throughout the tumult of emotional arguments in the West last year about disinvestment and sanctions against South Africa, this country warned consistently that such action would be futile or even counterproductive. It would be futile in that South Africans would resist pressures to accept foreign policy prescriptions. And it would be counterproductive to the extent that any effects which punitive economic action might have would be detrimental to the reform process itself.

It is worth noting how soon these predictions are being fulfilled. For a start the disinvestment campaign is running out of steam, says Mr Gerhard Croeser, head of policy and planning in the Department of Finance. At its height the campaign was fuelled partly by foreign companies' perceptions of economic conditions in South Africa and their fears about stability, but it was also motivated decisively by domestic political pressures in overseas countries for foreign companies to withdraw. Most suffered substantial losses.

Those remaining have not only seen the economy undergo an improvement, but have taken note of the fact that the withdrawals have had precisively nothing of the political effects at which they were ostensibly aimed.

Typical of the sentiment to which this has given rise is the reaction of Standard Chartered Bank in Britain this week to renewed demands from pressure groups that it should withdraw from South Africa. According to a spokesman the bank has no intention of changing its policy that its dealings in this country will be dictated solely by commercial considerations.

What is true of disinvestment has been equally clearly demonstrated in respect of sanctions. The former American ambassador, Mr Herman Nickel, goes so far as to describe last week's election results as evidence of South Africans' emphatic rejection of sanctions as an instrument for political change. To date the effect of the sanctions and disinvestment has been minimal. South Africa's new ambassador to Canada, Mr Hennie de Klerk, referred to one aspect of this when he presented his credentials in Ottawa on Tuesday [12 May]. The tempo at which socioeconomic reform — obviously an expensive process — can proceed, depends ultimately on the resources available in a country.

Where the resources are reduced through the conscious action of outside powers, the ability to advance in this sphere suffers accordingly. The other counterproductive result of outside pressure, for the sake of changes dictated by outsiders, is political. In this regard the actions of certain American companies in implementing the latest requirements of the Sullivan code, which calls for civil disobedience, are thoroughly irresponsible.

Reform that is successful, leading to a better dispensation for all, depends on orderly adaptations that are appropriate to the needs of a particular situation. Ill-considered and provocative pressures of the kind advocated by the Rev Mr Sullivan cause social disruption and anger. They destroy sober judgment and dispassionate debate, and in fact make the task of reform infinitely more difficult and complex. South Africans are aware that reforms are needed, and they will not evade the challenge. But they are not going to be stampeded in a direction dictated by others.

Police Resume Reporting Unrest; IPLC To Disband

MB141211 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1209 GMT 14 May 87

[Text] Pretoria May 14 SAPA — From tomorrow the Interdepartmental Press Liaison Centre [IPLC] of press-gag measures in the emergency regulations promulgated in terms of the Public Safety Act — will cease to exist, the Bureau for Information announced today.

Also from tomorrow, the bureau itself will cease obtaining, coordinating and compiling unrest related information and making this available to the media.

From tomorrow the responsibility for the daily unrest report and for inquiries concerning unrest will revert to the South African Police public relations division, the bureau announced.

"The Interdepartmental Press Liaison Centre was created during December 1986 in order to aid the media in channeling reports on matters regarding Art. 3(1) of the Public Safety Act to the relevant department for clearance," the bureau said in a statement.

"In practice it was found that the media prefer to follow the advice of their own legal advisers with regard to this matter, or to request clearance directly from the department concerned, which rendered the IPLC largely superfluous. In recent weeks an average of only two reports per day were referred to the IPLC.

"The IPLC will therefore be discontinued as from 15 May 1987.

"The media can still refer reports directly to the relevant departments, in accordance with the regulations.

"When the state of emergency was declared on 12 June 1986, the number of unrest related incidents was high and, to a greater or lesser extent, involved every branch of the security forces as well as other government departments.

"This necessitated the establishment of a channel through which coordinated information on the unrest situation could be made available to the media. The Bureau for Information was assigned the task of obtaining and coordinating all the reported information relating to the unrest situation and of making this available to the media on a daily basis. In addition the task of responding to media enquiries in this regard, on a 24-hour basis, was also assigned to the bureau.

"Over the past six months, however, the number of unrest incidents has declined significantly. It has also become clear that virtually all these incidents fall within the sphere of SAP responsibilities.

"In the light of these developments and taking into account representations received from the media concerning the flow of unrest-related information, the government has decided that as from 15 May 1987 the responsibility for the daily unrest report and for enquiries pertaining to the unrest situation in general, will revert to the public relations division of the SAP.

"The long-term analysis of unrest related statistics, will however, remain the responsibility of the Bureau for Information."

14 May Unrest Report

MB150713 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0706 GMT 15 May 87

[Text] Pretoria May 15 SAPA — The unrest situation report from the SAP Public Relations Directorate for the period 0001 to 2400 May 14 follows:

"Only a few incidents took place countrywide resulting in one person being injured and 3 arrested.

"The incidents consisted mostly of isolated cases of stone throwing at Botsabelo, Soweto, Katlehong, Jeppe Railway Station, Wolwekraal in KwaNdebele, and Umcababa Railway Station, where three arrests were made.

"A petrol bomb was also thrown in Soweto resulting in minimal damage."

Press Comments on Current Issues, Problems

MB150850 [Editorial Report]

CITIZEN on U.S. Firms' 'Civil Disobedience'

"Now there will be people who will argue that the efforts of American firms to circumvent the Group Areas Act are deserving of support, since the Act is anathema to many people," says the page 6 editorial in Johannesburg *The Citizen* in English on 14 May. "But — and this is the point — these American firms are not exempt from our laws. They may not engage in corporate civil disobedience. They may not deliberately defy the government. The authorities have warned companies that buying properties in White areas and making them available to Black employees is illegal. There are suggestions that any clampdown will hasten the departure of U.S. firms from this country. Better that than they be allowed to carry on as they are doing. Indeed, as foreign firms they have a special duty to keep within our laws."

STAR on Black Housing

Commenting on black housing Johannesburg *The Star* in English on 14 May says in a page 14 editorial: "The Government now intends to let township dwellers who have been paying their rents buy their homes without a deposit; those in arrears can have their debts absorbed into their loans and those whose homes are defective can have as much as two-thirds lopped off the purchase price. It is a step in the right direction — providing the bureaucracy ends the graft, some entrepreneurs end the greed and private firms continue to help employees own their own homes and so have a stake in stability."

Government Destroys Liberal Traditions

On the same page a senior lecturer in the Deparment of Sociology at the University of the Witwatersrand, Dr Duncan Innes, reacts to the allegation made by Martin Spring in the "My View" column on 7 May that "English-language universities have abandoned their 'liberal traditions which destroyed free speech for those — mainly right wingers — who attracted the ire of its radical students and their supporting staff.'" Innes says "the most obvious point to note as an initial response to this is that over the years it has not been the universities which have abandoned their liberal traditions and destroyed free speech: it has been the National Party government which has destroyed these traditions." "Through drastic censorship legislation and practices, resulting in the mass banning of books and articles, the Government has denied the universities the right to decide what shall be taught and how it shall be taught."

BUSINESS DAY on Government 'Ruthlessness'

"Like the voters, the investors seek firm government rather than good government," says a page 6 editorial in Johannesburg *Business Day* in English on 14 May. "A display of will and of ruthlessness by government has served to dispel doubts about the short and medium term, and investment sentiment is recovering accordingly. Voters, however, must look beyond the medium term. The cost of today's crackdown must be measured by tomorrow's bitterness. Long after the investors have taken their profits and gone, the interests of the voters and their children will still be at stake."

Heunis Unlikely To Press Reform

"The first thing Chris Heunis said after scraping home in Helderberg was that the result meant nothing for reform — he would carry on with reform anyway," notes a second editorial on the same page. "The first thing his department has done is to start applying forcefully the hurtful discrimination of the Group Areas Act. Complete with rigid guidelines about who must live where following an interracial marriage." "Denis Worrall, trying to defeat Heunis, campaigned against the Group Areas Act. Heunis should have dropped the qualification in his victory comment. His re-election means absolutely nothing for reform."

SOWETAN on SATS

"We cannot stand by idly while the South African Transport Services [SATS] is reacting with what seems to be petulant revenge against the workers who went on strike," says the page 6 editorial in Johannesburg *Sowetan* in English on 14 May. The *Sowetan* expects "more men will be fired, and those who dared to show leadership during the strike have no chance of ever getting their jobs back. It is a sick and petulant thing to do. Some people believe SATS is taking an even wider swipe at black people. After the strike commuters found it almost impossible to get tickets at some stations. In the meantime SATS has beefed up its security on trains and at stations."

SOWETAN: Group Areas 'Showdown' Looming

"A major showdown is looming between the Government and its coalition partners, the parliamentary opposition, the Anglican Church and foreign companies over new attempts to crack down on Group Areas Act offenders," says the "Focus" column on page 6 of *Sowetan*. "The Anglican Church has thrown down the gauntlet to the Government to act against it for housing Archbishop Tutu in the Archbishop's official residence at Bishop's Court in Cape Town." "Conservative Party spokesman, Mr Koos van der Merwe, MP for Overvaal, said the Government was obviously not prepared to take a firm stand on the Group Areas Act. 'They make statements about doing things, but when it comes to an issue like Bishop Tutu then they are not prepared to comment.'"

NEW NATION Interviews Chikane

On page 6, Johannesburg *New Nation* in English on 14-20 May interviews Frank Chikane, general secretary of the South Africa Council of Churches, on his view, among other things, of black theology. Chikane says "black theology is a liberation theology. If you are trying to make sense out of life, and if you are trying to create justice, you are developing a theology of liberation." On the future of South Africa Chikane says: Last week's elections prescribed the future: Whites are going to cling more and more to their privileges. Blacks will have no choice but to struggle for their rights as citizens. We are bound to end up with a confrontation if whites don't stop running the country as a minority. [P.W.] Botha has threatened to act against the extra-parliamentary opposition — yet he knows blacks can't participate in his parliament. He says he needed the elections to get a mandate. So he must allow blacks to get a mandate too. They must be allowed to openly and freely debate the issues. They must be allowed to play a role in determining the future of the country. As long as the

liberation movements are banned, Nelson Mandela and others are in prison, and political organisations in the country are prohibited from operating because of the state of emergency, it is not possible to resolve the problem."

BEELD on English Support For NP

"Suddenly painful recriminations are bandied about in the English community — now that the eyes of many there have been opened to what is actually concealed in the heart of the PFP, and now that they have put their much appreciated support behind the NP," says a page 8 editorial in Johannesburg *Beeld* in Afrikaans on 14 May. *Beeld* does not believe that English-speaking South Africans are "directionless." "They have shown that they, like the majority of their Afrikaner partners, want fair, reasonable and most of all orderly reform. The fact that they entrust this task to the NP does not make these South Africans directionless."

BURGER on English Support for NP

"The support for the NP by English-speaking South Africans in the House of Assembly general election has shown that the NP has become the party of national unity," remarks Cape Town *Die Burger* in Afrikaans on 13 May in a page 10 editorial. "It is clear that more English-speaking people have decided the NP is best equipped to meet their ideals for the country." But, "the greater support from English-speakers places a greater responsibility on the NP'sshoulders to continue constitutional reform while maintaining law and order. In this difficult task, the government can draw inspiration from the fact that it has widened the language boundaries of its party."

ZIMBABWE

Apartment Bomb Said Aimed at ANC Official

MB150815 Umtata Capital Radio in English
0800 GMT 15 May 87

[Text] The Zimbabwe Government has released more details of this week's Harare bomb blast. The State Security Department, which earlier blamed South Africa for the blast at an apartment building which killed a woman, Tsitsi Chiliza, now says the bomb was aimed at a tough ANC official in Zimbabwe. The department says the bomb was concealed in a television which was supposed to be a present for an unidentified ANC official. Mrs Chiliza's husband had brought the TV set back from Maputo in Mozambique for the official. The security minister says the television was rigged so the bomb could detonate when the set was switched on. Mr Chiliza was keeping the set in his flat until he could deliver it, but his wife switched it on and the bomb exploded.

Zimbabwe says it is quite clear it was a South African plot to kill the chief representative of the ANC, which misfired. It does not say who gave the television set to Mr Chiliza to pass on to the ANC official.

Pretoria has denied involvement.

Mugabe Blames ZAPU for Unity Talks' Failure

MB150737 Harare Domestic Service in English
0400 GMT 15 May 87

[Text] The president and first secretary of ZANU-PF, Comrade Robert Mugabe, says the unity talks between ZANU-PF and ZAPU failed basically because ZAPU would not totally accept the concept of uniting under the ZANU-PF umbrella. In an interview with *The Herald*, Comrade Mugabe said in theory ZAPU had accepted that the leadership of ZANU-PF will not be contested, and that the political and ideological direction chosen by ZANU-PF will be accepted. ZAPU had accepted that the need for absolute internal security had to be recognized.

He said his party had always subscribed to unity; not just unity in the narrow sense of combining ZANU-PF and ZAPU, but unity in the greater sense of having a united country. Comrade Mugabe said in the quest for national unity ZANU-PF had adopted the policy of national reconciliation so that it can bring all the people together. However, he said, both sides had to recognize that there is a democratic order in the country and recognize that sustenance of democracy depends on the international and external security of the nation.

Ian Smith Resigns From CAZ Leadership

MB131647 Umtata Capital Radio in English
1500 GMT 13 May 87

[Text] Former Rhodesian Prime Minister Ian Smith has ended a 39-year career in active politics. He has resigned the leadership of his Conservative Alliance [of Zimbabwe, CAZ] party and its 14-member parliamentary caucus. Mr Smith said his main reason for quitting the party leadership was the government's action in linking white voters with his remarks opposing sanctions against South Africa. The House of Assembly suspended him from parliament last month for such remarks.